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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## UPTICK IN UNEMPLOYMENT

The Worcester labor market area's unemployment rate increased slightly in February. In the latest month 5.9 percent of the labor force was unemployed, up two tenths of a percentage point from the previous month. Of the eight largest LMAs in the state Worcester recorded the second lowest unemployment rate. The seasonally unadjusted Massachusetts rate remained on a plateau at 6.4 percent while the national statistic dipped to 8.0 percent. For the past year the Massachusetts rate has remained considerably less than the national rate.

## BONDS APPROVED FOR LOCAL FIRMS

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) approved a number of tax-exempt, low interest bonds for area firms. Three bonds with a value of $1,800,000 will be used to finance new plant equipment and improvements to real estate. The Providence and Worcester Railroad Company, a freight carrier, will construct an 80,000 square foot addition to its Worcester facility. Another Worcester firm, Astro Wire and Cable Corporation, will purchase new capital equipment and renovate four buildings. Over a score of new jobs will be created due to the floating of the bonds.

## CURRENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

New England High Carbon Wire Corp. closed its doors after years of financed difficulties. The Millbury plant which manufactured carbon-insulated wire had been under Chapter XI of the Federal Bankruptcy Act to reorganize. The company had employed up to 300 persons at peak production levels during the past 10 years. Approximately 35 people were permanently laid off with the closing of the industrial complex which included 17 buildings and 265,000 square feet of manufacturing space.

It was also announced by the developer of the former Denholm's department store that rental units will not be available by the original February date. The occupancy date has been pushed up to May because of delays in the interior construction work on the project. The large building will have approximately 120,000 square feet available for rental with the majority of the footage to be utilized as office space. Another downtown building has been acquired by Tuxedo Realty with the intention of renovating and offering the space for commercial and retail rental. The acquision of the former C.C. Lowell building on Mechanic Street by Tuxedo Realty demonstrates the committment by the business community to continue to infuse capital into the revitalization of downtown Worcester.

## NEW DEFENSE SPENDING PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

The Research Department of the Division of Employment Security has just released (January 1981) a new publication entitled: Defense Spending and Massachusetts Employment, 1969-1979. This report is a study of defense spending and employment in Massachusetts over an 11 year period. Included in the study is data on both the state and national level on defense spending and those industries which benefited from defense procurement. Detailed information on the Boston Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA), the Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA, and the Lowell Labor Market Area (LMA) is included because these areas received the highest allocation of defense dollars in Massachusetts over the time span involved. However, the Worcester LMA has not been the recipient of many prime military contracts.

## HIGH NET DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

During the month of February there were a variety of occupations in high net demand in the Worcester labor market area. According to ESARS (Employment Service Automated Reporting System). The occupations include licensed practical nurses, insurance sales agents, nurses aides, security guards, and sewing machine operators.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | FEB 1981 | JAN 1981 | FEB 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE | 200,500 | 197,500 | 194,200 |
| Employment | 188,700 | 186,300 | 184,200 |
| Unemployment | 11,800 | 11,200 | 10,000 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.1 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 792 | 581 | 766 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 5,452 | 5,428 | 4,856 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 6,564 | 3,267 | 733 | 435 | 2,903 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,360 | 501 | 155 | 516 | 256 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | FEB 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1,262 |
| Openings Received | 3,407 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | FEB 1981 | JAN 1981 | FEB 1980 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 164.4 | 163.6 | 166.0 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 116.1 | 115.3 | 115.7 |
| Construction | 5.4 | 5.6 | 4.8 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.2 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 34.0 | 34.8 | 34.7 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.0 |
| Services & mining | 33.7 | 32.1 | 33.3 |
| Government | 26.4 | 26.2 | 26.7 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 48.3 | 48.3 | 50.3 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 32.0 | 32.1 | 34.5 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.4 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.1 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.2 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 11.7 | 11.6 | 12.8 |
| Other durable goods | 9.6 | 9.7 | 10.2 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 16.3 | 16.2 | 15.8 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Textile mill products | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.6 | 6.8 | 6.5 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | FEB 1981 | JAN 1981 | FEB 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | INA | INA | INA |
| Average Weekly Hours | INA | INA | INA |
| Average Hourly Earnings | INA | INA | INA |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

WORCESTER LMA

Massachusetts Profiles are published monthly by the DES Job Market Research Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Massachusetts Division of Employment Security

Eugene J. Doody, Director

Helen B. Munzer, Director, Job Market Research

Dorothy R. Sullivan, Chief Supervisor

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

LABOR AREA RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## WORCESTER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE JUMPS

The Worcester Labor Market Area's unemployment rate jumped in January. The January rate of 5.7 percent was up almost two full percentage points from the December rate of 4.0 percent. However, this high unemployment rate should be viewed with caution. A large portion of the drop is associated with the state-wide CPS sampling variance which exerts a direct effect upon employment and unemployment data in all labor markets throughout Massachusetts. During the same one month period the unadjusted state rate skyrocketed two full percentage points. Although statistically valid, the CPS survey tends to fluctuate erratically due to the size of the sample. A more reliable indicator of the economic well-being of the area would be to analyze the data over a minimum of three months. In Massachusetts the January unemployment rate was 6.4 percent while the national rate stood at 8.2 percent. Both rates are seasonally unadjusted.

## PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED TO AID UNEMPLOYED

Two programs were recently announced that would benefit persons in the Worcester LMA in gaining employment. In the first program the city of Worcester was one of 10 communities in Massachusetts selected to participate in a unique project designed to ultimately aid welfare recipients obtain unsubsidized employment. The U.S. Department of Labor awarded the state a $1.45 million federal grant to create the "Jobs Club". The "Jobs Club" concept is an intensive 40 hour a week program through which recipients will receive individual counseling and meet in groups to stress assertiveness behavior, to develop personal interviewing skills and generally develop positive job hunting techniques. The successful culmination of the program for each individual will occur when the person is on the payroll of a local private enterprise. The second program is designed to afford persons the opportunity to be trained in skills that are in high demand by high technology firms. The program will be administered by the Central Massachusetts Training Center and will be financed by matching grants by the state and Digital Equipment Corporation. The five month evening training program will be conducted at Oxford High School and open to enrollment of approximately 100 persons. Six high-technology skill areas to be taught include introduction to programming, word processing and electronic component assembly.

## OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) approved a tax-exempt, low interest bond for a local firm. The bond was issued by the Worcester Industrial Development Financing Authority (IDFA) to the Northboro Realty Trust to renovate a building to be used by the Amoco Container Corporation of Delaware. the $300,000 bond secured the financing of the project that is expected to create up to 250 new future jobs.

## APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

During the month of January there was a variety of applicant surplus occupations in the Worcester labor market area. According to ESARS (Employment Service Automated Reporting System) the occupations which had a large number of applicants seeking limited employment included general clerks, secretaries, material handlers and secondary school teachers.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | JAN 1981 | DEC 1980 | JAN 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE | 197,500 | 203,800 | 193,500 |
| Employment | 186,300 | 195,600 | 182,500 |
| Unemployment | 11,200 | 8,200 | 11,000 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 5.7 | 4.0 | 5.7 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 581 | 799 | 516 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 5,428 | 4,777 | 4,985 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 6,895 | 3,618 | 879 | 1,109 | 2,905 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 395 | 204 | 28 | 41 | 49 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | JAN 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1,150 |
| Openings Received | 2,732 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS * | EMPLOYMENT (000's) JAN 1981 | DEC 1980 | JAN 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | | | |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | | | |
| Construction | | | |
| Trans. & public utilities | | | |
| Wholesale & retail trade | | | |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | | | |
| Services & mining | | | |
| Government | | | |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS * | EMPLOYMENT (000's) JAN 1981 | DEC 1980 | JAN 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing - Total | | | |
| Durable Goods - Total | | | |
| Primary metal industries | | | |
| Fabricated metal products | | | |
| Cutlery & hardware | | | |
| Screw macn. products | | | |
| Other fab. metal prod. | | | |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | | | |
| Other durable goods | | | |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | | | |
| Food & kindred products | | | |
| Textile mill products | | | |
| Printing & publishing | | | |
| Leather & leather products | | | |
| Other nondurable goods | | | |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS * | JAN 1981 | DEC 1980 | JAN 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | | | |
| Average Weekly Hours | | | |
| Average Hourly Earnings | | | |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

* Figures will appear in the December issue of "Employment Review" due to Annual Benchmark Revisions.

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

WORCESTER LMA


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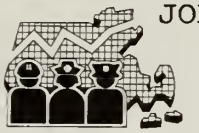
# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



## THE WORCESTER LABOR MARKET AREAS UNEMPLOYMENT

The Worcester Labor Market Areas unemployment rate inched downward in March. The March rate of 5.6 percent was down three-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month's rate of 5.9 percent. Worcester's economy continues to demonstrate surprising strength compared to both the state and nation. The local economy's unemployment rate is lower than the state rate of 6.2 percent and well below the national rate of 7.7 percent. All of these rates are non-seasonally adjusted.

## NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT INCREASES

Nonagricultural employment increased by 500 jobs over the month. The gains were recorded in the nonmanufacturing sector with wholesale and retail trade leading the way with 200 new jobs created. Job gains were also posted in government, service, contract construction and the finance group. However, total payroll employment over the year is down 2000 jobs. The bulk of these job losses have been in the rable goods subsector of manufacturing and represent sses mainly due to a general softness in the nations economic performance over the past year.

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UP 0.6 PERCENT

The Labor Department reported that the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) slowed in March to an increase of six-tenths of a percent, the smallest gain since last July. If this month's increase in the CPI were to remain constant for the next twelve months, it would produce an annual rate of 7.5 percent. The transportation and housing components of the index recorded their smallest increase in seven months due to the slower increase in energy products. However, the cost of apparel and its upkeep rose sharply. The increase of six-tenths of one percent brought the March index to 265.1. The meaning of the advance of the CPI, which uses 1967 as the base period of 100, is that goods and services that cost $100 in 1967 now cost $265.10.

## PASS PROGRAM

To improve potential government contract and subcontract opportunities for small businesses, the Small Business Administration developed its' Procurement Automated Source System (PASS). Using the latest computer technology, PASS is designed to boost the number of government contracts awarded to small firms. PASS permits small firms to register their capabilities and have them matched with manufacture textiles, clothing, electronic components, production equipment, medical, dental, and ophthalmic goods and which are in "labor surplus areas" may wish to register with PASS in order to increase the probability of receiving defense procurement contracts. Three communities in the LMA are currently classified as eligible labor surplus areas, Boylston, Brookfield, and Upton.

## DEFENSE SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The Department of Defense has announced establishments of a Defense Small Business Advanced Technology Program to capitalize on the creative potential of small high technology firms. The program is designed to promote innovative solutions to scientific and technical problems facing the defense community by increasing the participation of small high technology firms in the Departments' research and development initiatives. Details of the new program are available from Hal C. Fischer, Director of Small Business & Economic Utilization Policy, Room 2A-340 at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301.

## APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

During the month of March there was a variety of applicant surplus occupations in the Worcester LMA according to ESARS (Employment Service Automated Reporting System) the occupations which had a large number of applicants seeking limited employment included counselors, material handlers, secretaries, auto mechanics and inspection molding machine operators.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | MAR 1981 | FEB 1981 | MAR 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE | 197,700 | 200,500 | 195,000 |
| Employment | 186,700 | 188,700 | 185,700 |
| Unemployment | 11,000 | 11,800 | 9,300 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 5.6 | 5.9 | 4.7 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 461 | 792 | 444 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 4,956 | 5,452 | 4,936 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 7,455 | 3,678 | 849 | 492 | 2,940 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 2,260 | 983 | 237 | 183 | 272 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | MAR 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | N/A |
| Openings Received | N/A |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | MAR 1981 | FEB 1981 | MAR 1980 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 164.9 | 164.4 | 166.9 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 116.7 | 116.1 | 116.3 |
| Construction | 5.5 | 5.4 | 4.9 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.2 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 34.2 | 34.0 | 34.8 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.3 | 9.2 | 9.0 |
| Services & mining | 33.8 | 33.7 | 33.5 |
| Government | 26.6 | 26.4 | 26.9 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 48.2 | 48.3 | 50.6 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 32.0 | 32.0 | 34.6 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.8 | 8.7 | 9.5 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.1 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.9 | 6.8 | 7.3 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 11.5 | 11.7 | 12.8 |
| Other durable goods | 9.7 | 9.6 | 10.2 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 16.2 | 16.3 | 16.0 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Textile mill products | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.5 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | MAR 1981 | FEB 1981 | MAR 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $281.87 | $276.50 | $256.07 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.7 | 39.5 | 39.7 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $7.10 | $7.00 | $6.45 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## WORCESTER LMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES

The unemployment rate for the Worcester Labor Market Area was down for the second consecutive month. The April rate of 5.0 percent was off six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month. The Worcester LMA continues to have one of the lowest rates of the eight major labor markets. Also, comparisions with the Massachusetts and national statistics place the local economy in a favorable position. The Worcester LMA rate continues to be less than the stateand national seasonally unadjusted employment rate of 5.2 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively.

## NATIONS LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS UP IN APRIL

The nation's leading economic indicator index, which is designed to foretell economic trends, climbed four-tenths of a percentage point in April, the Commerce Department reported. The rise in the index was the second straight, following three monthly declines. Information on 10 of the 12 indicators which comprise the index was available. Of the 10 components reporting for the month, seven rose, two fell and one remained unchanged. Those advancing were the average work week, new orders, suppliers' performance in making timely deliveries, building permits, producers' prices, stock prices, and the money supply contracts and orders for plant and equipment fell while the lay-off rate was unchanged.

## MIFA BONDS APPROVED

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) board of directors announced the names of more firms that received approval for low interest bonds. Three firms within the Worcester LMA were recipients of the bonds. The Granger Lynch Corporation, a manufacturer of asphalt, was awarded a $2 million bond to purchase a 24,000 square foot plant and equipment. The Millbury firms is expected to increase its workforce by 35 new jobs. In Spencer, the Flexcon Corp. received a bond in excess of $2 million for the purchase of capital equipment. The firm produces flexible materials used in the automobile industry, printed panels and appliance labels. The project is anticipated to result in the creation of 150 new jobs. The third bond was awarded to a Worcester firm, L & J of New England and would create 10 new jobs.

The MIFA was established by the state legislature to encourage businesses to locate, remain and grow in Massachusetts by offering four incentive programs. The first are industrial revenue bonds which are loans by lending institutions for real estate and equipment. These bonds are tax-exempt loans by lending institutions which are able to loan money at more favorable rates because the lender does not have to pay federal taxes on the interest payment of this type of loan. The second component of the program allows for tax-exempt financing for commercial businesses located in urban areas which have been designated as in need of economic revitalization. The third MIFA program is for mortgage insurance for loans to smaller firms for plant expansions and the hiring of additional employees. The final component of the program is for tax-exempt financing for pollution control measures for Massachusetts firms.

## HIGH NET DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

During the month of April there were a variety of occupations in high net demand in the Worcester labor market area, according to ESARS (Employment Service Automated Reporting System). The occupations include licensed practical nurse, clerk-typist, general clerk, cashier and kitchen helper.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | APR 1981 | MAR 1981 | APR 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE | 194,000 | 197,700 | 194,400 |
| Employment | 184,300 | 186,700 | 185,600 |
| Unemployment | 9,700 | 11,000 | 8,800 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 5.0 | 5.6 | 4.5 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 881 | 461 | 602 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 4,231 | 4,956 | 4,396 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 7,681 | 3,838 | 885 | 1,002 | 3,012 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,885 | 760 | 200 | 187 | 336 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | APR 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | N/A |
| Openings Received | N/A |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) APR 1981 | MAR 1981 | APR 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 166.8 | 164.9 | 168.3 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 118.6 | 116.7 | 117.8 |
| Construction | 5.8 | 5.5 | 5.6 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.2 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 35.9 | 34.2 | 35.5 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.0 |
| Services & mining | 33.7 | 33.8 | 34.0 |
| Government | 26.6 | 26.6 | 26.5 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 48.2 | 48.2 | 50.5 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 31.9 | 32.0 | 34.6 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.2 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.8 | 8.8 | 9.5 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.4 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 11.3 | 11.5 | 12.8 |
| Other durable goods | 9.8 | 9.7 | 10.1 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 16.3 | 16.2 | 15.9 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Textile mill products | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.4 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | APR 1981 | MAR 1981 | APR 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $283.06 | $281.87 | $259.10 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.7 | 39.7 | 39.8 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $7.13 | $7.10 | $6.51 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

WORCESTER LMA

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Massachusetts Division of Employment Security

Eugene J. Doody, Director

Helen B. Munzer, Director, Job Market Research

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## WORCESTER LMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES

The Worcester Labor Market Area's unemployment rate rose slightly in May. The May rate of 5.4 percent was up four-tenths of one percent from the previous month. Despite the rise, the LMA continues to have the second lowest rate of the eight major labor market areas in Massachusetts. On the national level, 7.1 percent of the labor force was out of work in May. The seasonally adjusted Massachusetts rate was also up four-tenths of one percent from April.

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SHOWS EASING OF INFLATION

Figures released by the Labor Department show an easing in the rate of inflation. The Consumer Price Index rose by seven-tenths of a percentage point in May. The C.P.I. has for the past three straight months registered a rise that would be less than 10 percent on an annual basis. A large share of the increase was attributed to the housing component which is mirroring higher mortgage interest rates and housing prices. The index, which measures the cost of goods and services bought by urban consumers, now stands at 269.0. This means that a group of items that cost $100 in the base year of 1967 now costs $269.00

## NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT STABLE

Over the month, total nonagricultural employment increased by 200 jobs, from 166,800 in April to 167,000 in May. Most of the job changes occurred in nonmanufacturing employment with seasonal hiring patterns boosting construction employment by 400 jobs. The gains in construction were offset by payroll declines of 300 jobs in the services subsector of nonmanufacturing. Total nonagricultural employment is down 700 jobs from one year ago. All the job losses were recorded in the durable goods sector of manufacturing. Payroll declines in durable goods reflect recessionary pressures that have been at play in the national economy. A large portion of the durable goods manufactured in the LMA are shipped out of the local economy. Primary buyers of the finished products are the automobile and construction industries. It has been these two industries that have been beset by economic difficulties - the automobile industry by foreign imports and high interest rates, and the construction industry by high mortgage interest rates and escalating costs of labor and building materials. However, durable manufacturing employment should become more vibrant in the LMA. A number of firms that were forced to lay off employees have diversified their product mix, thereby expanding their markets. Other firms stand to receive production orders from automobile producers involved in retooling efforts to manufacture more fuel efficient and lighter weight vehicles. Also, the new administration in Washington plans to step-up military spending over the next few years which will aid a number of local firms. The biggest push in creating new jobs in the durable goods sector will be from jobs created by the high technology industry. Digital Equipment Corps., which has its worldwide headquarters in Maynard, announced plans to build in Shrewsbury. The project will include a single-story 200,000 square-foot manufacturing plant and a two-story, 300,000 square-foot engineering plant. Although 1,000 persons will be employed at the complex, over half of the employees already are working for Digital at other locations and will be transferred to the new facility when it is expected to open in late 1983. Construction has already begun in Westboro on the GTE Sylvania facility for the design and development of the electronic equipment for the MX ballistic missile communication system. The plant is scheduled to open in early fall and is expected to employ 1,000 persons.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | MAY 1981 | APR 1981 | MAY 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE | 195,000 | 194,000 | 196,000 |
| Employment | 184,600 | 184,300 | 185,900 |
| Unemployment | 10,400 | 9,700 | 10,100 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 5.4 | 5.0 | 5.2 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 546 | 881 | 552 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 3,801 | 4,231 | 4,130 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 7,489 | 3,725 | 846 | 1,019 | 2,970 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,717 | 679 | 209 | 206 | 256 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | MAY 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1,278 |
| Openings Received | 600 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | MAY 1981 | APR 1981 | MAY 1980 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 167.0 | 166.8 | 167.7 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 118.8 | 118.6 | 117.9 |
| Construction | 6.2 | 5.8 | 6.0 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.3 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 36.0 | 35.9 | 35.5 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.0 |
| Services & mining | 33.4 | 33.7 | 33.5 |
| Government | 26.6 | 26.6 | 26.6 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | MAY 1981 | APR 1981 | MAY 1980 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 48.2 | 48.2 | 49.8 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 31.9 | 31.9 | 34.0 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.3 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.2 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 11.4 | 11.3 | 12.5 |
| Other durable goods | 9.8 | 9.8 | 10.1 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 16.3 | 16.3 | 15.8 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Textile mill products | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.4 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | MAY 1981 | APR 1981 | MAY 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $286.88 | $283.06 | $257.54 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.9 | 39.7 | 39.5 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $7.19 | $7.13 | $6.52 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

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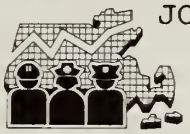
# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



## AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CLIMBS

The June unemployment rate in the Worcester Labor Market Area jumped 1.2 percentage points from the previous month. The latest rise in the unemployment rate to 6.6 percent is primarily due to seasonal factors. It is during the months of June and July that the unemployment rate climbs precipitously due to the entrance into the labor force of large numbers of students and graduates seeking full or part-time employment. Although there are a number of seasonal jobs created in the area they are not nearly sufficient in number to meet the needs of the army of young adults who would be willing to work in the summer. For a number of these high school and college students the seasonal jobs they hold represent their initial work experience.

Also showing significant monthly increases in June were the state and national unadjusted unemployment rates wich were 6.4 percent and 7.7 percent respectively.

## FARM EMPLOYMENT STABLE

Nonfarm employment, the count of jobs in the local economy, remained stable over the month. Both the durable and nondurable subsectors of manufacturing registered gains over May's figures. The present 48,500 jobs in manufacturing is 1,100 less than it was one year ago, but future job creation in manufacturing is expected to improve as high technology employment continues to expand in and into the labor market area. In nonmanufacturing employment the initial impacts of Proposition 2½ legislation which restricts municipal spending may be appearing. Over the month total government employment which includes federal, state and municipal workers declined by 500 jobs with most of the job losses being in local government. However, due to seasonal layoff patterns of school department personnel, such as traffic crossing guards, cafeteria workers, administrative clerks and untenured teachers, it is difficult to determine the portion of those who are seasonally out of work or permanent job losers. Contractions in employment of all three levels of government will continue as budget cuts in domestic spending by the federal government and tighter state budgets will necessitate further and more widespread payroll reductions.

## NATIONAL INDICATORS MIXED

The Commerce Department released figures which showed the nation's gross national product declined by an annual rate of 1.9 percent in the second quarter of 1981. The gross national product which measures the nation's output of goods and services, adjusted for inflation showed weakness in a number of major economic sectors. Economic activity was feeble in housing, automobiles, exports and investments. Another ominous sign was an extraordinary buildup of inventories which may signal a further decline in output for the third quarter as producers sell warehouse inventories and cut back production runs. IF GNP declines in the third quarter, the technical definition of a recession would be net, two successive quarters of declining overall activity.

On a more optimistic note, the Consumer Price Index rose only seven-tenths of one percent in June. If projected on an annual basis the June rate would produce an annual increase in prices of 8.8 percent. Declines in the prices of gasoline and heating oil and reduced increases of food prices are reflected in the easing of the inflation rate.

## HIGH NET DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

During the month of June there were a variety of occupations in high net demand in the Worcester Labor Market Area, according to ESARS (Employment Service Automated Reporting System). The occupations include security guard, counter attendant, general clerk, kitchen helper and nurse's aide.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | JUNE '81 | MAY '81 | JUNE '80 |
| LABOR FORCE | 201,500 | 195,000 | 196,200 |
| Employment | 188,100 | 184,600 | 183,900 |
| Unemployment | 13,400 | 10,400 | 12,300 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 6.6 | 5.4 | 6.3 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 1,034 | 546 | 767 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 3,962 | 3,801 | 4,363 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 7,038 | 3,618 | 804 | 941 | 2,959 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,306 | 553 | 165 | 124 | 283 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | JUNE '81 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1,181 |
| Openings Received | 448 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | JUNE '81 | MAY '81 | JUNE '80 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 166.9 | 167.0 | 167.9 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 118.4 | 118.8 | 118.3 |
| Construction | 6.5 | 6.2 | 6.3 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.4 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 36.0 | 36.0 | 35.7 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.5 | 9.4 | 9.2 |
| Services & mining | 33.0 | 33.4 | 33.4 |
| Government | 26.1 | 26.6 | 26.3 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | JUNE '81 | MAY '81 | JUNE '80 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 48.5 | 48.2 | 49.6 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 32.0 | 31.9 | 33.8 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.2 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.8 | 6.8 | 7.1 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 11.4 | 11.4 | 12.4 |
| Other durable goods | 10.0 | 9.8 | 10.1 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 16.5 | 16.3 | 15.8 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Textile mill products | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.5 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | JUNE '81 | MAY '81 | JUNE '80 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $291.60 | $286.88 | $260.95 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 40.5 | 39.9 | 39.9 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $7.20 | $7.19 | $6.54 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## SLIGHT DECLINE IN LMA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The July unemployment rate in the Worcester LMA declined slightly in July to 6.4 percent of the labor force. In Massachusetts the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent, up from the June rate of 6.1 percent. The increase in the state rate was attributed to vacation closings, new entrants and re-entrants into the labor force primarily amongst students, plant retoolings, and municipal staff reductions. Figures released by the Labor Department showed the national unemployment rate declining in July to 7.0 percent from 7.3 percent in June. The July rate is the lowest recorded since April of 1980. The latest national rate runs counter to other measures used to gauge the nations economic well being which have indicated that the economy is in a slowdown stage.

## CONSUMER PRICES ROSE 1.2 PERCENT IN JULY

The Labor department also reported that the Consumer Price Index rose by 1.2 percent in July, the largest rise in 16 months. The average for the previous three months was just .6 percent. A large share of the increase is mirroring higher mortgage interest rates and housing prices. The index, which measures the cost of goods and services bought by urban consumers, now stands at 274.4. This means that a group of items that cost $10 in the base year of 1967 now cost $27.44.

## CUTBACKS IN NUMBERS OF DES OFFICES

A $5.0 million federal budget cut in administrative costs of the Unemployment Insurance program and the Employment Service will result in the closing of 11 Division of Employment Security offices and the combining of services in nine others. Although no offices in the Worcester LMA will be affected, operations in the nearby Southbridge office will be terminated.

## NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT DROPS

Nonagricultural employment, the count of jobs in the Worcester LMA, fell by 3,700 in July. The largest decrease (-1,300) occurred in the government subsector of nonmanufacturing employment which dropped from 26,100 persons in June to 24,800 in July. All of the decreases were in municipal governments which reflect seasonal layoffs of many school department personnel and also permanent job losses resulting from recent Proposition 2½ legislation. Other sizable declines were in the machinery component of durable goods which showed job losses of 500. Declines in the machinery industry may be a precursor of new economic slowdowns that have been anticipated for the national economy.

## MIFA BONDS APPROVED

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) board of directors announced the names of more firms that received approval for low interest bonds. Two firms within the Worcester LMA were recipients of the bonds. Astrofoam, Inc., a producter of custom cushioned packaging materials utilized in the high tech industry was awarded a $500,000 bond. The firm will construct a 10,000 square foot addition at its location in the Higgins Industrial Park. A $1.5 million bond was received by the Frem Corporation for construction and equipment costs. The firm produces plated plastic photo frames, portable tables, food storage items and wall storage organizers. The two bonds issued are expected to create 50 new jobs.

## APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

During the month of July there was a variety of applicant surplus occupations in the Worcester LMA according to ESARS (Employment Service Automated Reporting System). The occupations which had a large number of applicants seeking limited employment opportunities included material handlers, secretaries, school teachers and counselors.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | JULY '81 | JUNE '81 | JULY '80 |
| LABOR FORCE | 199,800 | 201,500 | 196,200 |
| Employment | 187,000 | 188,100 | 185,200 |
| Unemployment | 12,800 | 13,400 | 11,000 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 6.4 | 6.6 | 5.6 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 604 | 1,034 | 604 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 5,740 | 3,962 | 5,398 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 7,633 | 3,959 | 952 | 1,347 | 3,011 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,589 | 775 | 239 | 156 | 285 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | JULY '81 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1,146 |
| Openings Received | 616 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | JULY '81 | JUNE '81 | JULY '80 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 163.2 | 166.9 | 162.2 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 115.8 | 118.4 | 114.4 |
| Construction | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.0 | 7.3 | 6.9 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 35.5 | 36.0 | 34.5 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.2 |
| Services & mining | 32.4 | 33.0 | 32.2 |
| Government | 24.8 | 26.1 | 25.1 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 47.4 | 48.5 | 47.8 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 31.6 | 32.0 | 32.5 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 10.9 | 11.4 | 11.8 |
| Other durable goods | 9.9 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 15.8 | 16.5 | 15.3 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Textile mill products | 3.7 | 4.1 | 3.5 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.9 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.4 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | JULY '81 | JUNE '81 | JULY '80 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $282.66 | $291.60 | $256.50 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.7 | 40.5 | 39.1 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $7.12 | $7.20 | $6.56 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

WORCESTER LMA

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Massachusetts Division of Employment Security

Eugene J. Doody, Director

Helen B. Munzer, Director, Job Market Research

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## RISE IN AREA UNEMPLOYMENT

In August the Worcester Labor Market Area unemployment rate rose five-tenths of a percentage point over the previous month. The most recent rate of 6.9 percent is the highest the statistic has been since September 1977 when it reached 7.2 percent. Despite the higher level of unemployment the labor market unemployment rate remains the second lowest of the eight major LMA's statewide. The state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 7.2 percent was also higher than the July rate.

## MAXIMUM BENEFIT RATE TO INCREASE

The maximum benefit rate payable to workers filing new claims for unemployment insurance will increase to $156 weekly. The individual claimant's benefit rate is based upon the state's average weekly wage for employment covered by the Employment Security Law, for the 12 month period ending March 31. As of that date the average weekly wage in Massachusetts was $269.93, up from $245.48 in 1980. The maximum benefit rate is then calculated at 57.5 percent of the state's average weekly wage. The new rate will apply to claims effective on or after October 4, 1981.

## LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Labor Market Information (LMI) describes the dynamics of employment opportunities and the workforce. It is obtained by measuring and evaluating the various factors that influence the supply and demand of workers. The information used by public and private sector employers, job seekers, students, planners, counselors and placement specialists. LMI is used for economic analyses, policy development, planning education and training programs, and for research in labor market behavior and related topics. It is also used in the allocation of program funds and in determining eligibility for preference in federal procurement contracts. One of the principal data-gathering agencies in the field of labor economics, the Division of Employment Security collects, processes, analyzes and disseminates data relating to employment, unemployment, wages and hours.

"Labor Market Information, What's Available for Massachusetts" is a new guide which describes the major programs and publications of the Division of Employment Security. All of the publications listed in this report may be obtained free of charge.

Copies of "Labor Market Information, What's Available for Massachusetts" may be obtained by contacting the Labor Area Research Department, C.F. Hurley Building, Government Center, Boston, Massachusetts 02114.

## NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT DOWN

Nonagricultural employment decreased by 1,100 jobs over the month. The losses were recorded in the nonmanufacturing sector with payroll declines in government employment accounting for over three quarters of the total. A portion of these payroll reductions were in municipal government which has been forced to permanently lay off employees due to the recently operative Proposition 2½ legislation. A larger share of declines was due to seasonal layoffs of city and town employees who normally return to work when the new school year commences.

In other economic developments it was announced by officials of Charlton Woolen Co. that operations at the main plant on Route 31 will cease. The closing of the mill which has been a fixture in the town of Charlton for decades will result in termination notices being sent to approximately 100 employees. Officials indicated the closing was due to economic reasons.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | August 1981 | July 1981 | August 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE | 200,100 | 199,800 | 196,600 |
| Employment | 186,300 | 187,000 | 185,100 |
| Unemployment | 13,800 | 12,800 | 11,500 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 6.9 | 6.4 | 5.8 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 395 | 604 | 447 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 5,354 | 5,740 | 5,266 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISADVANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 7,345 | 3,840 | 951 | 926 | 2,848 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,150 | 480 | 189 | 580 | 180 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | August 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1,237 |
| Openings Received | 520 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | August 1981 | July 1981 | August 1980 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 162.1 | 163.2 | 161.5 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 114.7 | 115.8 | 113.5 |
| Construction | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.6 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 6.9 | 7.0 | 6.8 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 35.2 | 35.5 | 34.5 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.6 | 9.6 | 9.2 |
| Services & mining | 32.4 | 32.4 | 32.1 |
| Government | 24.0 | 24.8 | 24.3 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | August 1981 | July 1981 | August 1980 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 47.4 | 47.4 | 48.0 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 31.8 | 31.6 | 32.4 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 9.1 | 8.8 | 9.0 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 7.2 | 6.9 | 7.0 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 10.7 | 10.9 | 11.5 |
| Other durable goods | 9.9 | 9.9 | 9.8 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 15.6 | 15.8 | 15.6 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Textile mill products | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.5 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | August 1981 | July 1981 | August 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $287.03 | $282.66 | $259.38 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 40.2 | 39.7 | 39.3 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $7.14 | $7.12 | $6.60 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

WORCESTER LMA UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN

The unemployment rate for the Worcester Labor Market Area was down significantly. The September rate of 6.3 percent was down six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month. A large share of the drop was attributable to seasonal factors as the size of the labor force shrunk when high school and college students left the workforce to return to school. The LMA continues to register one of the lowest unemployment rates statewide. Also, comparisons with the Massachusetts and national statistics place the local economy in a favorable position. The Worcester LMA rate continues to be less than the state and national seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate of 6.5 percent and 7.3 percent respectively.

RECESSIONARY PRESSURES GROW

Two statistics recently released by the Commerce Department appear to indicate that the nation is indeed in a recession. It was reported that the gross national product (GNP) declined at an annual rate of six-tenths of a percent in the third quarter. The third quarter figure for the GNP which measures the total output of goods and services follows a 1.6 percent decline in the second quarter. The decline of the GNP in the third quarter meets the technical definition of a recession, when the GNP declines for two consecutive quarters. Another piece of evidence that the nation's economy is in a recession was borne out by a decline in the index of leading economic indicators. The nation;s leading economic indicator index, which is designed to foretell economic trends, fell 2.7 percent in September. The decline in the index was the fourth in the last five months and the largest monthly decline since last year's recession. Information on 10 of the 12 indicators which comprise the index was available. Eight of 10 of the components of the index fell in September. The eight components that declined were the average workweek, the manufacturing layoff rate, new orders, rate of delivery of new goods, orders for plant and equipment, building permits, stock prices and the money supply. Total liquid assets remained unchanged and prices of crude materials rose.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT INCREASES

Total nonfarm wage and salary employment (count of jobs) rose in September. Over the month, 1,700 new jobs were created in the LMA to put the total number of jobs in the area at 164,300. Manufacturing employment remained stable while nonmanufacturing employment gained 1,600 jobs over the month. Payroll incrases were recorded in the services, transportation and utilities, and trade subsectors. Employment in government decreased by 100 jobs due to cutbacks in employment in all levels of government. Traditionally it is in September when employment in the government subsector rises due to municipal and state staffing of educational institutions. However, budget restraints have reduced the normal staffing levels. An indication that the local economy is feeling the effect of the recession is verified by the fact that the total number of jobs in the area is somewhat less than one year ago.

MIFA BOND APPROVED

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) board of directors announced that a local firm has received approval for low interest bonds. In Westboro, Alden Electronic and Impulse Recording Equipment Co. won approval of a bond of $550,000. The firm, a manufacturer of communications equipment and graphic recording and scanning instruments, will construct a 37,000 square foot, two story addition to its facility near the junction of Rts. 9 and 495. It is expected that the project will create 23 new positions at the firm.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

During the month of September there were a variety of applicant surplus occupations in the Worcester LMA according to ESARS (Employment Service Automated Reporting System).

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Sep. 1981 | Aug. 1981 | Sep. 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE | 195,700 | 200,100 | 198,300 |
| Employment | 183,300 | 186,300 | 187,200 |
| Unemployment | 12,400 | 13,800 | 11,100 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 6.3 | 6.9 | 5.6 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 543 | 395 | 488 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 4,658 | 5,354 | 4,025 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 7,295 | 3,882 | 847 | 999 | 861 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,378 | 602 | 88 | 646 | 216 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Sep. 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 975 |
| Openings Received | 541 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) Sep. 1981 | Aug. 1981 | Sep. 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 164.3 | 162.6[R] | 165.4 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 116.3 | 114.7 | 117.8 |
| Construction | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.3 | 6.9 | 7.2 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 35.9 | 35.2 | 35.2 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.2 |
| Services & mining | 33.2 | 32.4 | 33.3 |
| Government | 23.9 | 24.0 | 26.3 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) Sep. 1981 | Aug. 1981 | Sep. 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing - Total | 48.0 | 47.9[R] | 47.6 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 31.8 | 31.8 | 31.9 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| Fabricated metal products | 9.1 | 9.1 | 9.0 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.0 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 10.8 | 10.7 | 11.3 |
| Other durable goods | 9.7 | 9.9 | 9.6 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 16.2 | 16.1[R] | 15.7 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| Textile mill products | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.2 | 2.2[R] | 2.0 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.8 | 6.9[R] | 6.4 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | Sept. 1981 | Aug. 1981 | Sept. 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $291.56 | $293.38 | $254.41 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.4 | 40.3[R] | 39.2 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $7.40 | $7.28[R] | $6.49 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Chariton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

LMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UP SLIGHTLY

6.4 percent of the labor force in the Worcester LMA were seeking employment in October. The unemployment rate rose by one-tenth of one percentage point from the September rate of 6.3 percent. Although the unemployment rate in the LMA compares favorably to the other large LMAs statewide, the year-to-date increase in the statistic is dramatic. In October of 1980 only 4.1 percent of the workforce were without work, indicating that the current recession, which had its origins in the automobile, steel and home construction industries, has permeated into other industrial sectors including many in the local economy.

Also showing monthly increases in October were the state and national unadjusted unemployment rates which were 7.0 percent and 7.5 percent respectively.

RECESSIONARY PRESSURES REMAIN STRONG

It was reported by the Commerce Department that the monthly index of leading economic indicators declined by 1.8 percent in October. The index, which is designed to fortell changes in the economy, was down for a third consecutive month. This downturn in the index is a strong signal that the recession will be deeper and longer lived than was initially realized. Ten of the 12 components which comprise the index were available for the report. Six of the 10 components declined with manufacturing layoffs leading the way, followed by declines in building permits issued and new orders for consumer goods. If a silver lining is ever to be found in a deepening recession it is the decline in the rate of inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). According to the index prices rose by only four-tenths of one percentage point in October, which would be the smallest increase in six months. If the October index figures were annualized over 12 months it would produce an inflation rate below 5 percent. Contributing to the less than expected increase in the CPI were moderating food prices and falling costs for new housing. The index which measures the cost of goods and services bought by urban consumers, now stands at 279.9. This means that a group of items that cost $100 in 1967 costs $279.90 in October.

MIFA BONDS APPROVED

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) board of directors announced the names of more firms that received approval for low interest bonds. Three industrial firms within the Worcester LMA were recipients of the bonds. Cincinnati Milacron-Heald Corporation received a $1 million bond for the purchase of capital equipment for its plant. The firm, a producer of machine tools, is expected to create 75 jobs as a result of the issuance. Another $1 million bond was awarded to Holbrook Drop Forge, Inc. to construct a new 20,000 square foot facility in Worcester. It is likely that 20 new positions will be realized at the Worcester firm which manufacturers specialized forgings for use in the aerospace, petrochemical, missile and medical industries. Finally, the Eli Sandman Company received a $207,000 bond for purchase of equipment for its facility in Worcester - approximately 15 persons will be added to the firm's payroll. Since its inception MIFA has been instrumental in creating hundreds of jobs for the labor market area. MIFA was established by the state legislature to encourage business to locate, remain and grow in Massachusetts by offering various financing incentives.

PRESS RELEASES

We would appreciate being added to companies' mailing lists for press releases that would have any bearing on the number of Massachusetts workers; for example, mass recruitment, plant expansion, plant consolidation, and layoffs. Please send such information to the address shown on the reverside side of this profile.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct. 1981 | Sep. 1981 | Oct. 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE ..... | 204,000 | 196,200 | 202,200 |
| Employment ..... | 190,900 | 183,800 | 193,800 |
| Unemployment ..... | 13,100 | 12,400 | 8,400 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ ..... | 6.4 | 6.3 | 4.1 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE .. | | | |
| Initial Claims ..... | 498 | 543 | 421 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed ..... | 4,027 | 4,658 | 3,983 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants ..... | Information Not Available | | | | |
| New Applicants ..... (This Month) | | | | | |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Oct. 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ ..... | |
| Openings Received ..... | |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct. 1981 | Sep. 1981 | Oct. 1980 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 166.2 | 164.3 | 166.3 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 118.3 | 116.3 | 118.5 |
| Construction | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.4 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.3 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 36.3 | 35.9 | 34.9 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.1 |
| Services & mining | 34.3 | 33.2 | 34.3 |
| Government | 24.3 | 23.9 | 26.5 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct. 1981 | Sep. 1981 | Oct. 1980 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 47.9 | 48.0 | 47.8 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 31.8 | 31.8 | 31.9 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| Fabricated metal products | 9.2 | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 10.8 | 10.8 | 11.2 |
| Other durable goods | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.6 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 16.1 | 16.2 | 15.9 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Textile mill products | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.1 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.5 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings<br>Average Weekly Hours<br>Average Hourly Earnings | Information Not Available | | |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

WORCESTER LMA

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Massachusetts Division of Employment Security

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## YEARLY NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT DECLINES

In November 1980 total nonagricultural employment (the number of jobs) in the Worcester Labor Market stood at 168,000; over the following twelve month period that figure had shrunk by 1,900 jobs or 6 percent. A variety of factors have been instrumental in this decline; the more pronounced reasons have been high interest rates, budget reductions in all levels of government and a general uncertainty as to the direction of the economy. High prime interest rates have precluded financing sizable inventory accumulations by business. These rates have been particularly damaging to smaller firms which must rely on short term debt to meet current operating expenses. Moreover, skyrocketing interest rates have been directly responsible for the depression in the housing and automobile industries. Over the year government payrolls have dropped from 26,800 in November 1980 to 24,500 presently; the 2,300 lost jobs represent a decline of almost 9 percent. By far and away the largest loss was in local government which has been reeling from the effects of Proposition 2½ legislation which restricts municipal spending. To a lesser extent, budget cuts in federal payrolls, federally administered programs and state government have accounted for the remaining shrinkage of government jobs.

## DECLINE IN LMA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate for the Worcester LMA was down in November. The November rate of 6.0 percent was off four-tenths of one percentage point from the previous month. Despite worsening economic conditions throughout Massachusetts the LMA continues to have one of the lowest rates of the eight major labor markets . Also, comparisons with the state and national statistics place the local economy in a favorable position. The Worcester LMA continues to be less than both the state and national seasonally unadjusted employment rates of 6.4 percent and 7.9 percent respectively.

## NATIONAL INDICES MIXED

The federal government announced that the November Consumer Price Index rose five-tenths of one percent. With this moderate rise in the November index and, provided that there is not an abnormally high increase in December, there is a strong likelihood that the inflation rate for the calendar year will be below 10 percent. This would mark the first time since 1978 that the rate of inflation has been below 10 percent. The reasons for the moderate increase is attributable to smaller increases in both housing and food costs. The index which measures the cost of goods and services bought by urban consumers now stants at 280.7. This means that a group of items that cost $100 in the base year of 1967 now costs $280.70.

Another barometer of the national economy was less sanguine than the C.P.I. The Commerce Department released figures which show a continued decline in the nation's leading economic indicators. The leading economic indicators, which are designed to foretell economic trends, declined for the fourth consecutive month. However, the November decline of three-tenths of one percent was the smallest of the three previous months.

## NEW REPORT RELEASED

The Occupation/Industry Research Department of the Division of Employment Security recently made available to the public a publication entitled An Occupational Profile of Hospital Employment in Massachusetts. The report was designed through the use of a survey to develop an occupational profile of the Massachusetts hospital industry. In addition to providing a current source of industry employment patterns, the report contains information useful in the following areas: evaluation of classroom and on-the-job training programs, job development and placement of new entrants and individuals in career changes, establishment of a comprehensive occupation information system, and finally, projection of future employment requirements.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. 1981 | Oct. 1981 | Nov. 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE ..... | 204,700 | 204,000 | 202,200 |
| Employment ..... | 192,400 | 190,900 | 193,800 |
| Unemployment ..... | 12,300 | 13,100 | 8,400 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ ..... | 6.0 | 6.4 | 4.1 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE .. | 752 | 498 | 536 |
| Initial Claims ..... | 4,554 | 4,027 | 4,077 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed ..... | | | |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants ..... | 7,854 | 3,936 | 952 | 564 | 3,046 |
| New Applicants (This Month) ..... | 1,774 | 650 | 223 | 239 | 343 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Nov. 1981 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ ..... | 1,096 |
| Openings Received ..... | 529 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. 1981 | Oct. 1981 | Nov. 1980 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 166.1 | 166.2 | 168.0 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 118.7 | 118.3 | 119.9 |
| Construction | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.5 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.4 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 36.8 | 36.3 | 35.7 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.1 |
| Services & mining | 34.1 | 34.3 | 34.4 |
| Government | 24.5 | 24.3 | 26.8 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. 1981 | Oct. 1981 | Nov. 1980 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 47.4 | 47.9 | 48.1 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 31.5 | 31.8 | 32.0 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| Fabricated metal products | 9.0 | 9.2 | 9.1 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 10.6 | 10.8 | 11.3 |
| Other durable goods | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.6 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 15.9 | 16.1 | 16.1 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Textile mill products | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.5 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | Nov. 1981 | Oct. 1981 | Nov. 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $294.32 | $289.64 | $265.67 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.4 | 39.3 | 39.3 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $7.47 | $7.37 | $6.76 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SPIRAL

The unemployment rate in the Worcester Labor Market Area continues to rise. The December rate of 6.5 percent was up one-half of one percentage point from the previous month. The new rate is stark confirmation that the local economy is feeling the recessionary pinch of the rest of the nation. In December 1980, 4.0 percent of the labor force was jobless. Also showing significant monthly increases in December were the state and national unadjusted unemployment rates which which were 6.9 percent and 8.3 percent respectively.

DECLINE IN GNP

The Commerce Department released figures which showed that the nation's gross national product declined by an annual rate of 5.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 1981. The gross national product, which measures the nation's output of goods and services, showed weaknesses in a number of economic sectors. Economic activity was stagnant in most sectors while the automobile and housing industries bore most of the brunt of the decline.

MIFA BONDS APPROVED

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) board of directors announced the names of more firms that received approval for low interest bonds. Three firms within the Worcester LMA were recipients of the bonds. Sack Storage Company, a general commodities warehouser, was awarded a $1,150,000 million bond for construction of a 60,000 square foot addition to its warehouse facility in Worcester. A $1.1 million bond was received by Worcester Quality Foods Inc., for construction of a 10,000 square foot addition. Also, renovations will be made and new equipment purchased to improve operations at the existing warehouse. It is expected that 35 new positions will be created at the firm. The MIFA was establisned by the state legislature to encourage businesses to locate, remain and grow in Massachusetts by offering four incentive programs. The first are industrial revenue bonds which are loans by lending institutions for real estate and equipment. These bonds are tax-exempt bonds by lending institutions which are able to loan money at more favorable rates because the lender does not have to pay federal taxes on the interest payment of this type of loan. The second component of the program allows for tax-exempt financing for commercial businesses located in urban areas which have been designated as in need of economic revitalization. The third MIFA program is for mortgage insurance for loans to smaller firms for plant expansions and the hiring of additional employees. The final component of the program is for tax-exempt financing for pollution control measures for Massachusetts firms.

The December issue of Worcester LMA is the last regular issue. Due to severe cuts in federal funds, The Division of Employment Security regretfully announces that it must terminate the following publications: Massachusetts Cities and Towns, Massachusetts Trends, Massachusetts Labor Turnover in Manufacturing, and Massachusetts Profiles for each of the 10 major labor market areas in the state.

The statistical data contained in these publications will be available in the Job Market Research library on the second floor of the Hurley Building. Some of the statistical information contained in these publications will be available during 1982 in a revised Massachusetts Employment Review publication. If you would like to be put on this mailing list, please write to the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security, Job Market Research Publications, Charles F. Hurley Building, Government Center, Boston, MA 02114. Be sure to include your complete address and zip code. The information you will provide us will be fed into our new computer program which will enable us to deliver information more efficiently. If you know of others who would like to be on our new mailing list, please have them send us their addresses.

If any additional funding becomes available during the year, we will add to our list of publications on a selective basis. Your comments on the value of and uses for the publications you have been receiving would help us to focus our decisions.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec. 1981 | Nov. 1981 | Dec. 1980 |
| LABOR FORCE | 203,000 | 204,800 | 203,800 |
| Employment | 189,800 | 192,500 | 195,600 |
| Unemployment | 13,200 | 12,300 | 8,200 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 6.5 | 6.0 | 4.0 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 938 | 752 | 799 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 5,458 | 4,544 | 4,777 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISADVANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | | | | | |
| New Applicants (This Month) | | I N A | | | |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | |
| Openings Received | I N A |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec. 1981 | Nov. 1981 | Dec. 1980 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 166.3 | 166.1 | 168.9 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 119.5 | 118.7 | 120.4 |
| Construction | 6.0 | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.4 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 37.5 | 36.8 | 36.6 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.1 |
| Services & mining | 34.5 | 34.1 | 34.5 |
| Government | 24.3 | 24.5 | 26.5 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 46.8 | 47.4 | 48.5 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 31.1 | 31.5 | 32.3 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.8 | 9.0 | 9.1 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.1 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 10.4 | 10.6 | 11.5 |
| Other durable goods | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 15.7 | 15.9 | 16.2 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Textile mill products | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.9 |
| Printing & publishing | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Leather & leather products | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| Other nondurable goods | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.7 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | Dec. 1981 | Nov. 1981 | Dec. 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $294.78 | $294.32 | $270.75 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.2 | 39.4 | 39.7 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 7.52 | $ 7.47 | $6.82 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, ouring the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## UNEMPLOYMENT CLIMBS

In the steepest one-month climb since June 1981, unemployment in the Worcester LMA rose in May by 1,200 persons to 17,600 or a rate of 8.7 percent. This is the greatest number out of work since July of 1976. This surge in joblessness is primarily due to the early incursion into the labor force of school and college graduates, which swelled the number in the labor force to 202.000.

Employment actually increased since April overall, although nonfarm payroll numbers were down by just 100. The manufacturing sector, however, showed weakness. Durable goods employment was down in all industries except Fabricated Metals, which added 200 workers. Nondurable goods industries either dropped or showed no change. On the other hand, nonmanufacturing industries, with one exception, made gains aided by seasonal influences. Only Services suffered a downturn.

## FACTORY WORK WEEK SHORTENS

May saw a continuation of the less-than-40 hours work week for production workers in manufacturing industries in the Worcester LMA, with the average hours sagging to 38.8, down over the year as well as over the month. The overall drop is attributable to weakness in nondurable goods industries, where not only hours but also average hourly earnings declined. In the case of the durable goods industries, average hours worked were unchanged, but hourly earnings rose slightly.

## WORCESTER FIRM EXPANDS

The Parker Metal Corporation of Worcester, a wire fastener and nail manufacturer has announced the expansion of its facilities. The expansion involves the purchase of an additional 40,000 square foot manufacturing facility, which will allow straight line production from raw materials to finished goods. This enlargement has entailed the purchase of substantial capital equipment, including a wire drawing mill, nail mill, and a fastener mill, An estimated 50-60 new jobs are being created.

## THE LAST AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BOOKLET

Because of federal Department of Labor requirements the Division of Employment Security will no longer publish an annual edition of tables of demographic data of women and minorities in the population and the labor force and the employed and unemployed for the state and most of its labor market areas. The last editions entitled "Labor Market Information for Affirmative Action Programs - 1981" should, therefore, be kept for future reference.

## NET HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

At the end of May there was an active file of 6,074 job applicants with DES in the Labor Market Area with only 1,033 unfilled openings registered with us, a ratio of nearly six to one. Of all occupations listed only three of those with 20 or more openings had a surplus over the number of applicants. They were waiters and waitresses (42 openings vs 24 applicants), nurse aides (20 openings vs 10 applicants) and security guards (39 openings vs 37 applicants.

## New Publications

A new publication entitled Trade Adjustment Act: Impact on the Massachusetts Economy is now available. This publication is a study of the Trade Adjustment Act of 1974 (TAA) and employment affected during the 5-year period, January 1975 through November 1981. Another new publication that is now available is Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Employment in Massachusetts 1971-1980. This publication contains information on the occupational composition of these industries, structural changes in them over the past 5 years and the effect upon employment, and detailed information on the Boston, Springfield, and Worcester Labor Market Areas.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | May 1982 | Apr. 1982 | May 1981 |
| LABOR FORCE ..... | 202,000 | 200,400 | 194,200 |
| Employment ..... | 184,400 | 184,000 | 183,800 |
| Unemployment ..... | 17,600 | 16,400 | 10,400 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ ..... | 8.7 | 8.2 | 5.3 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE .. | | | |
| Initial Claims ..... | 816 | 1041 | 546 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed ..... | 5632 | 6525 | 3801 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants ..... | 6074 | 2214 | 1068 | 649 | 1548 |
| New Applicants (This Month) ..... | 882 | 382 | 78 | 79 | 101 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | May 1982 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ ..... | 1033 |
| Openings Received ..... | 4968 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | May 1982 | Apr. 1982 | May 1981 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 164.3 | 164.4 r/ | 167.2 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 120.2 | 119.7 r/ | 119.3 |
| Construction | 5.0 | 4.8 | 5.2 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.4 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 36.5 | 36.2 | 36.5 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 10.4 | 10.2 | 10.0 |
| Services & mining | 36.8 | 37.7 | 35.4 |
| Government | 23.9 | 23.3 | 24.8 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | May 1982 | Apr. 1982 | May 1981 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 44.1 | 44.7 | 47.9 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 29.9 | 30.3 | 32.3 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.8 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| Screw mach. products | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.0 | 6.5 | 6.8 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 10.0 | 10.4 | 11.7 |
| Other durable goods | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.7 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 14.2 | 14.4 | 15.6 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| Textile mill products | 3.3 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.5 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | May 1982 | Apr. 1982 | May 1981 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $303.42 | $301.86 | $286.88 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 38.8 | 39.0 | 39.9 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 7.82 | $ 7.74 | $ 7.19 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

WORCESTER LMA

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Massachusetts Division of Employment Security

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## UNEMPLOYMENT IN STEEP RISE

In July, unemployment in the Worcester LMA showed a steep increase to 24,100 persons and a rate of 11.3 percent. This was a 21.1 percent jump over the number out of work in June and was a reflection of a big upswing in unemployment claims from workers out on unpaid vacations during this month, the usual summer influx of students and graduates seeking work, and the continued decline in the economy in general as reflected in state and national statistics.

The new additions to the labor force swelled its numbers to a record 213,100, the highest ever, so that even with an improvement in total employment thanks to seasonal gains in such categories as construction, finance, insurance and real estate, and services and some expansion of employment for area residents just outside the region in the Marlboro LMA, the unemployment rate went up.

## THE ECONOMY SOFTENS OVER THE YEAR

As the year 1982 has progressed, the spread between the year-before unemployment rate and the corresponding month this year has more than doubled, from a 2.0 percentage point difference in January to 5.0 percentage points in July.

The manufacturing sector has shown the greatest over-the-year retrenchment with softness in both durable and nondurable goods industries. Nonmanufacturing work rolls were up by 2.3 percent; three categories gained workers while the other three lost ground. Nonfarm payrolls made a 1.3 percent dip over this period.

## COMPARISON OF THE PRESENT RECESSION WITH THE LAST PREVIOUS ONE IN 1975-1976

The number out of work in the Worcester LMA has now reached the highest level since the 24,500 jobless recorded in June 1975, and is the second highest number since the present era's estimates began in January 1970. A 11.3 percent rate of unemployment was last attained in January 1976.

## NET HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Despite the large numbers of unemployed, there are a few occupations in high demand in relation to the active applicant file at the DES. They are mostly high turnover positions and include the following: waiters and waitresses, department store floor managers, cashiers, security guards, and general clerks.

## PLACEMENTS

The Worcester Job Matching Office filled 3,139 job openings from the October 1981 through July 1982. The following is a percentage breakdown of job-placements by occupations: clerical, 26.7 percent; packaging and materials handling, 22.1 percent; "other" services, 21.9 percent, sales, 8.5 percent; machine trades, 7.5 percent; structural, 3.0 percent; and all other occupational groups, 7.3 percent.

## COMPARISON OF CLAIMANTS TO POPULATION

The following is a comparison of the percentage breakout within the Worcester Labor Market Area of where persons who collected unemployment benefits in April 1982 lived and the percentages of population of the cities and towns to the labor area at the time of the 1980 census. The city of Worcester residents made up 42.2 percent of the claimants, while the city's population accounted for 42.5 percent of the total. In no city or town was this percentage difference greater than 2.0 percentage points. Communities with a higher percentage of claimants include Northbridge, Webster, Douglas, and Oxford. Those with a lower percentage of claimants include Northboro, Holden, Shrewsbury, and Westboro.

Of the 27 cities and towns within the Worcester LMA, the ten towns with the largest numbers of claimants by place of residence were Worcester (2,686), Webster (358), Northbridge (330), Oxford (274), Shrewsbury (267), Millbury (257), Auburn (224), Spencer (223), Uxbridge (196), and Leicester (167).

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | July 1982 | June 1982 | July 1981 |
| LABOR FORCE | 213.1 | 205.0 | 202.1 |
| Employment | 189.0 | 185.1 | 189.5 |
| Unemployment | 24.1 | 19.9 | 12.6 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 11.3 | 9.7 | 6.3 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 2520 | 767 | 604 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 7231 | 6208 | 5740 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISADVANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 6161 | 2015 | 1187 | 620 | 1365 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1065 | 377 | 141 | 100 | 127 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | July 1982 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1074 |
| Openings Received | 621 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | July 1982 | June 1982 | July 1981 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 161.1 | 163.3 | 162.4 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 117.7 | 119.3 | 115.1 |
| Construction | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.5 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.4 | 7.8 | 7.2 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 35.6 | 36.5 | 36.0 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 11.2 | 10.7 | 10.5 |
| Services & mining | 36.1 | 35.8 | 33.4 |
| Government | 22.1 | 23.4 | 22.5 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 43.4 | 44.0 | 47.3 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 30.2 | 29.8 | 32.0 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.7 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.5 | 6.8 | 6.7 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 10.9 | 9.9 | 11.3 |
| Other durable goods | 9.1 | 9.4 | 9.9 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 13.2 | 14.2 | 15.3 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| Textile mill products | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.7 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.9 |
| Other nondurable goods | 7.7 | 8.4 | 8.6 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | July 1982 | June 1982 | July 1981 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $297.99 | $303.03 | $282.66 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 38.5 | 38.9 | 39.7 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 7.74 | $ 7.79 | $ 7.12 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

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# Massachusetts Profiles

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# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## NOVEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT LOWER

While unemployment was worsening in the country as a whole in November the Worcester LMA was typical of most of the areas in Massachusetts in showing improvement. The unemployment rate fell from 8.5 percent in October to 7.4 percent in November, while the number of jobless dropped by nearly 15 percent to 15,100 persons. Among the ten major areas in Massachusetts the Worcester LMA was in a median position, with four areas having lower rates, one area tied, and the other four with higher rates.

The reduction in unemployment rolls, however, can excite only moderate enthusiams as it doen't appear to have been translated into new hiring. The drop seems to have been brought about by workers withdrawing from the labor force because of discouragement in job hunting or poor seasonal conditions and some cases of residents of the Worcester LMA finding employment in other nearby labor market areas.

## NO GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT

Employment showed no growth, but in fact declines, both on the total employment by place of residence basis and on the total nonagricultural place of work basis. Small worker accessions in such nonmanufacturing industry groups as services and transportation and public utilities were more than offset by a cut of 500 jobs in manufacturing, among both durable and nondurable goods.

## CENTRAL REGION APIR PUBLISHED

The DES Annual Planning Information Report (APIR) Fiscal Year 1983 in Central Massachusetts is now available. The Worcester LMA and the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA are analyzed in particular detail. A two page Executive Summary on the complete report can be requested.

This report, and similar ones for the state as a whole and its main geographical areas,provide demographic and socio-economic information, as well as labor market conditions and employment developments by industry and by occupation.

For copies of this or any other report please specify the report and write to the address given in a separate paragraph of this report.

## BLS NEWS RELEASES AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

The U. S. Burea of Labor Statistics has inaugurated an electronic news release service which permits persons interested in the Bureau's national economic indicators to gain access directly from the computer in which they are stored. National BLS releases available on-line over telephone lines to computer terminals include: Employment Situation
Commissioner's Statement before the Joint Economic Committee
Producer and Consumer Price Indexes
State and Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment

BLS will continue to make its releases available to the press in the conventional manner. A recorded summary on prices and employment data is also on a 24 hour phone line 202-523-9658.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - MAILING LIST UPDATE

Massachusetts Profiles are available for ten major labor markets in Massachusetts: Boston SMSA, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg-Leominster, Lawrence-Haverhill, Lowell, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield-Chicopee - Holyoke, and Worcester. They are designed for people who want current regional labor market information for public policy or business decisions. If you wish to CONTINUE to receive Massachusetts Profiles after the end of the calendar year, please specify the Region(s) for wish you wish to receive copies by writing to:

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Massachusetts Division of
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Job Market Research Publications
C. F. Hurley Building
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

## LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. 1982 | Oct. 1982 | Nov. 1981 |
| LABOR FORCE ..... | 205.1 | 208.2 | 207.9 |
| Employment ..... | 190.0 | 190.5 | 195.8 |
| Unemployment ..... | 15.1 | 17.7 | 12.1 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ ..... | 7.4 | 8.5 | 5.8 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE .. | | | |
| Initial Claims ..... | 948 | 865 | 752 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed ..... | 6884 | 7165 | 4554 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

## AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants ..... | 6072 | 2033 | 1170 | 508 | NA |
| New Applicants (This Month) ..... | 2513 | 932 | 302 | 174 | NA |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Nov. 1982 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ ..... | 686 |
| Openings Received ..... | 463 |

1/ At End of Period 2 Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. 1982 | Oct. 1982 | Nov. 1981 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 163.8 | 164.1 | 167.5 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 122.8 | 122.6 | 119.7 |
| Construction | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.2 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.7 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 37.3 | 37.2 | 36.9 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 10.4 | 10.4 | 9.9 |
| Services & mining | 38.2 | 38.0 | 36.6 |
| Government | 23.4 | 23.5 | 23.4 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. 1982 | Oct. 1982 | Nov. 1981 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 41.0 | 41.5 | 47.8 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 28.2 | 28.4 | 32.3 |
| Primary metal industries | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.3 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.9 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.1 | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 9.6 | 9.6 | 11.3 |
| Other durable goods | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.8 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 12.8 | 13.1 | 15.5 |
| Food & kindred products | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.2 |
| Textile mill products | 2.6 | 2.7 | 3.4 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.9 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.0 | 8.0 | 9.0 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | Nov. 1982 | Oct. 1982 | Nov. 1981 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $307.85 | $301.72 R/ | $294.32 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 38.1 | 38.0 | 39.4 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 8.08 | $ 7.94R/ | $ 7.47 |

NOTE: Current Montn Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

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NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

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## ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT DATA REVISIONS

The enclosed estimates for January 1983 are the first monthly data benchmarked to the March 1982 BLS-202 base. As part of the same annual process our previously published estimates for the two preceding years, 1982 and 1981, are being revised to this same benchmark period. Note, in particular, that the figures herein listed for the previous month (December 1982) and the same month a year ago (January 1982) differ from the figures originally issued. Unemployment turns out to have been at a somewhat higher rate throughout 1982, with, for example, the December 1982 rate now 0.4 percentage points higher than originally estimated.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RISES AGAIN

January saw more workers joining the ranks of the unemployed in Massachusetts, with the unadjusted rate of unemployment rising by 1.6 percentage points to 8.7 percent. Measuring by its seasonally adjusted rate of 7.9 percent, however, Massachusetts continued to rank the lowest among the 10 major industrial states. The Worcester LMA rate (which is not adjusted) jumped from a revised 8.7 percent in December to 10.1 percent. This is the first time the LMA has had double digit unemployment since March of 1976, when the numbers out-of-work were the same as in January, 20,400, but the jobless rate was 10.9 percent. The January 1983 employment estimate of 181,300 is the lowest since September of 1977.

## DES REPORT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMANTS BY RACE

A breakout of the places of residence of the 7,663 claimants from the cities and towns in the Worcester LMA in January 1983 shows that 3,080 or 40.2 percent were from the city of Worcester. This is somewhat less than the 1980 federal census proportion of the area's population, which was 42.5 percent. Following Worcester in number of claimants were Northbridge (410), Webster (409), Shrewsbury (340) and Oxford (286).

Claimants registered at the Worcester Office amounted to 5,158. Of these 103 (2.0 percent) were nonwhite, 106 (2.1 percent) were Spanish surnamed, and 31 (0.6 percent) were "other". Claimants registered at the Webster Office totalled 2,119, of whom 0.4 percent were nonwhite, 50 (2.4 percent) were Spanish surnamed, and 10 (0.5 percent) were "other".

## HIGH NET DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Within the labor market area in January there were only a few occupations with any great demand, most of them being in high turnover categories with low skill requirements. There were the following unfilled openings.

| No. | Dot Code | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 35 | 311.477-014 | Counter waiter/waitress |
| 25 | 211.462-010 | Cashier |
| 25 | 929.687-030 | Material Handler |
| 21 | 209.562-010 | General Clerk |
| 14 | 355.674-014 | Nurse Aide |
| 14 | 372-667-034 | Security Guard |
| 12 | 205.362-014 | Reception Interviewer |

## BOTTLE BILL BRINGS NEW BUSINESS TO WORCESTER

In January the voter-endorsed so-called bottle bill went into effect in the state. This bill requires deposits on cans as well as bottles containing bottled soda and beer, which will be refunded on their return. Worcester area wholesalers have set up a Massachusetts Container Recovery Inc. (Mass. CRINC) plant in a former U.S. Steel Corp. building. This company will pick up the returnables and bring them to the plant to be crushed. After this processing the reduced residue will be shipped out-of-state to the reclamation plants in New Hampshire, New York and Pennsylvania. Mass. Crinc. expects to employ about 40 workers when fully operational.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan. 1983 | Dec. 1982 | Jan. 1982 |
| LABOR FORCE | 201,700 | 203,900 | 202,200 |
| Employment | 181,300 | 186,200 | 186,300 |
| Unemployment | 20,400 | 17,700 | 15,900 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 10.1 | 8.7 | 7.9 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 1,518 | 2,521 | 960 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 8,538 | 8,256 | 7,306 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 6,291 | 2,089 | 1,211 | 475 | NA |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,107 | 434 | 152 | 54 | NA |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Jan. 1983 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 660 |
| Openings Received | 582 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan. 1983 | Dec. 1982 r/ | Jan. 1982 r/ |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 154.0 | 160.4 | 159.7 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 113.0 | 118.4 | 113.5 |
| Construction | 4.3 | 4.9 | 4.6 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 6.8 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 32.6 | 34.6 | 33.8 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.8 | 10.3 | 9.9 |
| Services & mining | 37.0 | 38.2 | 35.3 |
| Government | 22.5 | 23.2 | 22.7 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 41.0 | 42.0 | 46.2 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 27.7 | 28.5 | 31.5 |
| Primary metal industries | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.2 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.9 | 7.8 | 8.5 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.6 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 9.6 | 10.2 | 11.0 |
| Other durable goods | 8.4 | 8.7 | 9.8 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 13.3 | 13.5 | 14.7 |
| Food & kindred products | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| Textile mill products | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3.2 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | Jan. 1983 | Dec. 1982 | Jan. 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $ 319.51 | $319.84 | $299.52 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.3 | 39.1 | 39.0 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 8.13 | $ 8.18 | $ 7.68 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

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Helen B. Munzer, Director, Job Market Research

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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## CETA REPLACED

The recently enacted federal Job Training Partnership Act will replace CETA as the government sponsored job training program. The responsibility for administering the training program has been transferred from federal agencies to the states. Massachusetts will receive $59,191,076 for the training program, some 22 percent of which will be used for administrative cost while the remaining 78 percent will go to Regional Service Delivery Areas (SDA). The SDA will have autonomy in deciding how they will spend their training funds. Local Private Industry Councils will decide what training programs will be offered. The councils will be made up of business officials and representatives from the Division of Employment Security, the Welfare Department, Education and other local organizations.

The Worcester LMA contains part of the Northern and Southern Worcester County SDAs.

Training will be targeted to unemployed persons such as those permanently displaced by factory closings, Aid to Families with Dependent Children recipients, school-age youth entering the labor force, handicapped workers, and others such as older workers and persons released from prisons and are finding it difficult to find jobs.

## TAX CREDITS FOR HIRING TEENAGERS

The new federal government Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) program will give employers who hire economically disadvantaged youth a federal tax credit of up to $2,550 of the total salary paid to each employee. Assuming that a youth is paid minimum wages for the summer, as much as 85 percent of that amount can be written off on the employer's tax return. The DES is the only agency which can certify summer youth employees for the tax credit.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Hourly, weekly, and yearly earnings for selected occupations in the Worcester area are contained in a booklet published by the Occupation/Industry Research Department of the Division of Employment Security. The full title of the report is: Wage and Salary Data for Selected Occupations Boston and Worcester Metropolitan Areas Western and Northern and Southeastern Regions. The information is prepared from area and industry wage surveys conducted by the Burea of Labor Statistics.

The Occupation/Industry Research unit will also collect wage and salary data for all regions of the state through its own area wage survey commencing August, 1983. Publication should commence in the spring of 1984.

## COMPARISON OF THE UNEMPLOYED FROM THE CENSUS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DATA

The 1980 Census estimated that 135,319 individuals were unemployed in Massachusetts. Active job seekers not working who were registered with the Employment Service in March 1980 numbered 114,209 (84.4 percent of the individuals identified by the Census). Within the Boston SMSA, the 1980 Census estimated the number of unemployed individuals as 61,261. The Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) recorded 52,002 unemployed individuals registered with the employment service as of March 31, 1980. This represents 84.9 percent of the unemployed individuals within the Boston SMSA enumerated by the census. Within the Balance of Massachusetts, 74,049 individuals were identified by the Census as unemployed. ESARS data indicated that in March 1980, active DES jobseekers not working within the Balance of Massachusetts numbered 62,207.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. 1983 | Feb. 1983 | Mar. 1982 |
| LABOR FORCE | 197,100 | 194,200 | 199,900 |
| Employment | 179,300 | 175,600 | 184,800 |
| Unemployment | 17,800 | 18,600 | 15,100 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 9.0 | 9.6 | 7.5 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 585 | 896 | 696 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 8027 | 8759 | 6949 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISADVANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 6078 | 1870 | 938 | 449 | NA |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 9908 | 3399 | 1442 | 902 | NA |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Mar. 1983 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1332 |
| Openings Received | 490 |

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. 1983 | Feb. 1983 | Mar. 1982 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 156.5 | 155.1 | 161.5 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 116.0 | 114.8 | 116.6 |
| Construction | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.5 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.0 | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 32.4 | 32.5 | 33.6 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.8 | 9.7 | 9.9 |
| Services & mining | 39.4 | 38.8 | 37.6 |
| Government | 23.2 | 22.8 | 23.3 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. 1983 | Feb. 1983 | Mar. 1982 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 40.5 | 40.3 | 45.3 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 27.3 | 27.1 | 30.7 |
| Primary metal industries | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.2 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.8 | 7.7 | 8.2 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Screw mach. products | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.5 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 9.4 | 9.3 | 10.7 |
| Other durable goods | 8.3 | 8.3 | 9.6 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 13.2 | 13.2 | 14.6 |
| Food & kindred products | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| Textile mill products | 2.5 | 2.4 | 3.1 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.7 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | Mar. 1983 | Feb. 1983 | Mar. 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $317.54 | $293.80 | $307.7 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.3 | 36.5 | 39.8 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 8.08 | $ 8.05 | $ 7.73 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Prelimnary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

WORCESTER LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

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JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

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LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINE

From May 1982 to May 1983 the labor force for the Worcester LMA decreased 3.6 percent while employment and unemployment declined respectively 2.0 and 19.0 percent. The net effect of these changes in employment variables resulted in a 16.5 percent drop in the unemployment rate. During this same time period unemployment insurance claims appear to have bottomed out. Initial claims fell 17.3 percent and continued claims fell 7.3 percent. Many of the newer jobs in the Worcester area that have developed over the last year appears to have originated from within the Worcester area service sector. This sector formed a 6.5 percent increase in employment from May 1982 to May 1983; while manufacturing saw a decline of 2.2 percent.

BLS NEWS RELEASES AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has begun an electronic news release service which permits persons interested in the Bureau's national economic indicators to gain acess directly from the computer in which they are stored. BLS news releases which are available by telephone lines to computer terminals include the following: 1) National, state and local employment data; 2) Joint Economic Committee of Congress' statements; 3) Producer Price Index; 4) Consumer Price Index.

Prices and employment data can also be obtained by dialing 202-523-9658. The information is recorded and operated on a 24-hour basis.

WORCESTER WELCOMES NEW JOBS AND NEW ENTERPRISES TO AREA

Ransome Airlines has recently initiated flights from Worcester Airport to a number of East Coast cities, including New York, Philadelphia, Washington and Providence. Air Vermont is also new to Worcester and has begun shuttle flights to Albany and Boston, with connections to major airlines.

The 101 room Best Western Centrum Inn, located in downtown Worcester just across from the Centrum began operations May 19. An expansion to 140 rooms is expected within 18 months.

Two new restaurants were recently opened in suburban Worcester. One a pub style restaurant seating 150 in Auburn; the other is an American-continental style restaurant with a total seating capacity of 435 located in Westboro.

PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES TO EXPAND

The State Motor Registry is constructing an 18,000 sq. ft. office building in Worcester. Construction costs for this structure are estimated at $1.7 million. A portion of the inner circle traffice loop in downtown Worcester is progressing with the widening of Austin Street. Meanwhile several other downtown streets are scheduled for repaving. Both projects are estimated to total $1.5 million. The $60 million storm water-sewer separation project is nearing completion; approximately $5 million in bids are still to be let. A new $700,000 fire station was announced by the city of Worcester and construction is planned for early 1984.

TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

The Massachusetts Board of Regents has announced tuition waiver extensions for the 1983-1984 academic year at state system colleges and universities. This program recognizes the responsibility of the Commonwealth to provide assistance for the unemployed.

Eligibility for waivers is restricted to Massachusetts residents receiving unemploymentbenefits at the time of course registration. Eligibility also applies to those residents who have exhausted benefits and remain unemployed. Students under this program may enroll up to a maximum of 11 credit hours, if they are receiving unemployment benefits; those who have exhausted benefits can enroll as full-time students. Applicants for tuition waivers must have their benefit status confirmed by the Division of Employment Security or the participating college or university.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR May 1983 | April 1983 | May 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|
| LABOR FORCE | 193,497 | 196,255 | 200,646 |
| Employment | 178,822 | 179,408 | 182,395 |
| Unemployment | 14,675 | 16,847 | 18,251 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 7.6 | 8.6 | 9.1 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 675 | 1391 | 816 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 5539 | 7560 | 5977 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISADVANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 5647 | 1979 | 1696 | 431 | NA |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1599 | 655 | 154 | 235 | NA |

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | May 1983 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ | 1254 |
| Openings Received | 664 |

1/ Available During the Month
1/ At End of Period 2/ Full and Part-time

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | May 1983 | April 1983 | May 1982 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 156.7 | 156.2 | 162.2 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 117.6 | 116.7 | 117.3 |
| Construction | 4.9 | 4.3 | 5.2 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 33.2 | 32.7 | 34.7 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 10.3 | 10.1 | 10.3 |
| Services & mining | 39.3 | 39.6 | 36.9 |
| Government | 23.0 | 23.1 | 23.4 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | May 1983 | April 1983 | May 1982 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 39.1 | 38.8 | 40.0 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 25.7 | 26.0 | 29.8 |
| Primary metal industries | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Fabricated metal products | 4.7 | 4.8 | 6.2 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Screw machn. products | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 4.7 | 4.8 | 6.2 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 9.1 | 9.2 | 10.5 |
| Other durable goods | 8.5 | 8.5 | 9.4 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 13.4 | 13.5 | 14.6 |
| Food & kindred products | .9 | .9 | 1.0 |
| Textile mill products | 2.5 | 2.6 | 3.0 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.3 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | May 1983 | April 1983 | May 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $321.79 | $318.27 | $296.81 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.1 | 39.1 | 38.2 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 8.23 | $ 8.14 | $ 7.27 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

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### UNEMPLOYMENT TAKES SIZEABLE DROP

The unemployment rate in the Worcester LMA continued its downward trend in November, falling by more than 15% to 11,200, the fewest out of work in this area since May 1981. The area rate had been running higher than the state since April of 1982, but matched it in November at 5.6% of the civilian labor force.

### EMPLOYMENT FINALLY TOPS YEAR BEFORE TOTAL

Total employment surged upward by a healthy 3,300 over the October level, absorbing 2,100 of the unemployed as well as another 1,200 entrants or reentrants into the labor force this month. This represented the highest employment total since November 1981, although only 600 over the November 1982 figure.

### RECOVERY HAS BEEN SLOW AND SPOTTY

Employment changes in establishments within the LMA have been uneven. This is highlighted by a comparison with year-ago levels. Job totals in all manufacturing industries are still 600 less. Nonelectrical machinery is off by 1,000 and leather and leather products is down 200. Among nonmanufacturing groups only services show higher totals, up by a hefty 2,100 slots, more than offsetting the lower figures in 4 other Divisions, the largest deficit being in trade (-700).

### CONTINUED INCREASES IN HIRING FORESEEN

A survey of 35 Worcester area employers by the temporary help company, Manpower Inc., has found that 39 percent of them say that they plan to hire workers in the first quarter of 1984. This represents a big improvement over the plans announced a year ago where only 7 percent expected to add workers. Forty-three percent are planning no change in employment levels, while only 18 percent expect to make layoffs.

The expected hiring will be done by manufacturers of both durable and nondurable goods and also by the wholesale and retail trade and service sectors.

### DISLOCATED WORKERS PROGRAM

In January the DES will put into operation a new Dislocated Workers' Program in 5 locations across the state. This activity plans to provide training and employment opportunities to workers who have been unemployed 15 weeks or longer and are unlikely to return to their former industry or occupation. The DES will provide job search and placement services to assist such workers in reentering the work force.

Eight areas presented proposals for funding of their individually developed Comprehensive Worker Assistance Centers. Worcester was one of the 5 cities selected, the others being Lawrence, New Bedford, Pittsfield, and Springfield. Worcester plans to help 1,527 dislocated workers. Funding for this project comes from the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Title III Dislocated Worker Program.

### MAJOR EMPLOYER PLANS EXPANSION

The Norton Co. has announced plans to begin construction early in 1984 of a $10 million dollar plant in Northboro near to I-290. This plant will be the site of the headquarters and research laboratories of the company's high-performance ceramics division.

The town of Northboro has authorized tax exempt revenue bonds to enable Norton to borrow $1 million of construction money at low interest rates.

The new plant is expected to employ between 140 and 160 people. About 70 of them will be transfers from the Worcester plant, the balance will be new hires.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. 1983 | Oct. 1983 r/ | Nov. 1982 r/ |
| LABOR FORCE ..... | 201,100 | 199,900 | 205,200 |
| Employment ..... | 189,900 | 186,600 | 189,300 |
| Unemployment ..... | 11,200 | 13,300 | 15,900 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ ..... | 5.6 | 6.6 | 7.7 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE .. | | | |
| Initial Claims ..... | 463 | 434 | 648 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed ..... | 3065 | 3074 | 6664 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted
r/ revised

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants ..... | 3431 | 1327 | 490 | 317 | NA |
| New Applicants ..... (This Month) | 966 | 364 | 191 | 118 | NA |

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Nov. 1983 |
|---|---|
| Unfilled Openings 2/ ..... | |
| Openings Received ..... | 911 |

1/ Available During the Month



1 At End of Period 2 Farm and Nonfarm

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) Nov. 1983 | Oct. 1983 | Nov. 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 161.4 | 160.9 | 161.1 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 119.7 | 119.4 | 118.8 |
| Construction | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.3 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 33.5 | 33.3 | 34.2 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 10.2 | 10.2 | 10.3 |
| Services & mining | 40.8 | 40.7 | 38.7 |
| Government | 23.1 | 23.0 | 23.2 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) Nov. 1983 | Oct. 1983 | Nov. 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing - Total | 41.7 | 41.5 | 42.3 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 27.7 | 27.5 | 28.5 |
| Primary metal industries | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.8 |
| Cutlery & hardware | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Screw mach. products | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Other fab. metal prod. | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.2 |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 9.2 | 9.1 | 10.2 |
| Other durable goods | 8.8 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 14.0 | 14.0 | 13.8 |
| Food & kindred products | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Textile mill products | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.6 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Other nondurable goods | 9.2 | 9.1 | 8.8 |

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | Nov. 1983 | Oct. 1983 | Nov. 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $343.85 | $332.69 | $307.85 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 40.5 | 39.7 | 38.1 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 8.49 | $ 8.38 | $ 8.08 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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Evelyn F. Murphy, Secretary
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## Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

### SEASONAL RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

The monthly unemployment rate for January made its customary seasonal jump at this time of year, going from 5.6 to 7.2 percent of the labor force. This increase of 1.6 percentage points varies but slightly from the 1.4 percentage point rise from December 1982-January 1983 and the 1.5 percentage point rise from December 1981-January 1982.

The Worcester LMA is starting 1984 with 30 percent fewer unemployed than in January 1983, but with only 700 more employed. This is a reflection of a drop of 5,400 persons in the labor force over this period, due to temporary or permanent withdrawals of discouraged workers, early retirements, migration out of the area, or entrance into the armed forces.

In January only two major labor market areas had lower unemployment rates than the Worcester LMA, the Lowell LMA at 5.5 percent and the Boston SMSA at 6.1 percent.

### REVIEW OF 1983

The Worcester LMA started the year still deep in recession, with the unemployment rate in double digits (10.1 percent) and the number unemployed nearly 20,000 (19,900 as revised). The beginnings of recovery slowly appeared during the year, starting in April, when the number of unemployed was fewer than the year before the first time since December 1980.

Nonfarm employment within the LMA, however, did move ahead of 1972 monthly figures starting in August, but the annual average for 1983 of 159,000 jobs was the least since 1977. Manufacturer's work rolls continued to decline throughout the year; durable goods employment was below 1982 figures for every month of the year and nondurable jobs did not exceed them until the final quarter of the year. On average manufacturing employment was 7.5 percent less than in 1982. The biggest drop, of more than 10 percent, took place in nonelectrical machinery.

Nonmanufacturing was still at a lower level than in 1982, but Services employment was the one bright spot. Its gain of 2,100 to 39,100 brings it almost to the level of manufacturing workrolls. This was its biggest percentage gain since 1978. Service employment has a record of continuous annual growth over every year since our current data series was started in 1970.

### MORE HIRINGS FORESEEN

A temporary manpower service company, Manpower Inc., has found that 39 percent of 35 employers surveyed are planning to hire workers during the first quarter of 1984. Last year at this time only 7 percent indicated hiring plans. The survey also learned that 43 percent plan no change in the number employed, while 18 percent plan to make reductions. The agency forecasts hiring in both durable and nondurable goodsmanufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and in the services sector. The sector expecting some reduction in force is public administration in government.

### PLANNING PUBLICATIONS

The Job Market Research section of the Division of Employment Security has published a series of reports with planning data for the service areas of Massachusetts as defined for the purpose of implementing the Job Training Partnership Act for Planning Year 1984. The report entitled "Planning Data: Central Mass. & Associated SDA's FY 1984" provides data for the Northern Worcester Service Delivery Area of 23 cities and towns, including the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA and the Gardner and Clinton LMAs, and the Southern Worcester Service Delivery Area of 38 cities and towns, including most of the communities in the Worcester, Milford and Southbridge LMAs.

Copies can be obtained by writing to Mass. Division of Employment Security, Job Market Research Publications, C. F. Hurley Building, Government Center Boston, MA 02114.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR Jan. 1984 | Dec. 1983 | Jan. 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| LABOR FORCE | 191,800 | 195,600 | 197,200 |
| Employment | 178,000 | 184,600 | 177,300 |
| Unemployment | 13,800 | 11,000 | 19,900 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 7.2 | 5.6 | 10.1 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 614 | 744 | 1518 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 4384 | 3598 | 8720 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 3635 | 1257 | 631 | 346 | INA |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 736 | 288 | 101 | 83 | INA |

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | |
|---|---|
| Openings Received | 983 |

1/ Available During the Month

1/ At End of Period

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan. 1984 | Dec. 1983 R/ | Jan. 1983 R/ |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 155.2 | 162.1 | 155.5 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 115.4 | INA | 115.5 |
| Construction | 3.4 | | 3.8 |
| Trans. & public utilities | 6.0 | | 5.9 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 36.6 | | 35.0 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.1 | | 9.6 |
| Services & mining | 37.4 | | 38.4 |
| Government | 22.9 | 24.3 | 22.8 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan. 1984 | Dec. 1983 | Jan. 1983 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 39.8 | | 40.0 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 27.0 | | 27.5 |
| Primary metal industries | 1.8 | | 1.7 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.6 | | 7.6 |
| Cutlery & hardware | | | |
| Screw mach. products | | I | |
| Other fab. metal prod. | | | |
| Machinery (exc. electrical) | 8.3 | | 9.0 |
| Other durable goods | 9.3 | | 9.2 |
| | | N | |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 12.8 | | 12.5 |
| Food & kindred products | | | |
| Textile mill products | 2.9 | | 2.6 |
| Printing & publishing | | | |
| Leather & leather products | 1.3 | A | 1.6 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.6 | | 8.3 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings<br>Average Weekly Hours<br>Average Hourly Earnings | I | N | A |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester

WORCESTER LMA

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Evelyn F. Murphy, Secretary Economic Affairs
Kristin S. Demong, Director DES
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# Massachusetts Profiles

# Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

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## UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS AGAIN

Repeating February's pattern, unemployment in March experienced another sizeable fall(0.8 percentage points)to 5.4 percent of the labor force, the lowest rate since May 1981. The 10,300 jobless were the fewest in the LMA since the 9,400 of April 1981.

The Worcester LMA's unemployment rate is the third lowest of all the major areas in the state, behind the Boston SMSA at 4.8 percent and the Lowell LMA at 4.3 percent. The two small areas within the Southern Worcester SDA showed comparable reductions in joblessness in March, with the Milford LMA reaching 5.5 percent (down from 6.2 percent) and the Southbridge LMA hitting 7.6 percent (down from 8.7 percent).

## EMPLOYMENT GAINS MIXED

Total employment moved upward with its second straight monthly addition of 1,500 workers. Non-farm establishments had a mixed employment picture with Services over-the-month jump of 800 jobs the most outstanding. Despite the evident improvement in the economy there is still slack remaining. Employment in non-farm enterprises in March 1984 was still 4,000 below the level for March 1982, and the labor force has been reduced by 8,500 since that time, as a result of many withdrawals from the labor force during the recession.

## BONDS FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION CREATE NEW JOBS

The Massachusetts Industrial Development Finance Agency (IDFA) has approved a total of $4,450,000 in industrial revenue bonds for business expansion plans in the Worcester area.

The Rand-Whitney Container Corp. has been awarded $3 million to buy capital equipment and to build a 16,200 square foot plant addition at its Agrand Street headquarters. This is expected to add new workers. The Bond will be issued by the Worcester Industrial Development Financing Authority. The company makes cardboard containers and other paper products.

Innovations, Inc. of Shrewsbury, which makes trade show exhibits, has been approved for a bond for $975,000, to be issued by the Shrewsbury IDFA. The company will build a 51,500 square foot new plant, next to its present one, and will employ five more persons.

Admore, Inc. will benefit from a bond for $475,020 to build an office and warehouse at the Worcester Airport Industrial Park. They will add eight additional jobs as a result. The firm makes signs and advertising displays.

## SUMMER JOBS FOR TEENAGERS

The Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) allows employers who hire economically disadvantaged youth a tax credit on the total salary paid to each youth. To be eligible for this program a summer job applicant must be 16 or 17 years of age and a member of a low-income family. Employers are encouraged to contact local DES offices for further information or to list job openings.

## SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUTH

Starting in February the Neighborhood Youth Corps began to accept applications for its Summer Youth Employment Program. They may be submitted up until July 2nd.

Although the exact amount of money which will be available for this year's program has not yet been announced, it is expected that the Worcester area will receive about $850,000. If this sum is received, the program will be able to hire between 1,000 and 1,200 young people between the ages of 14 and 21. Participants must be from low-income families.

Placements will be made in jobs with public and private non-profit organizations at minimum wages. The jobs will last for seven weeks, between July 2nd and August 17th. Applications may be obtained at the Neighborhood Youth Corps., Room 212 A, 9 Walnut Street, Worcester.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | MARCH 1984 | FEB. 1984 | MARCH 1983 |
| LABOR FORCE | 191,300 | 191,400 | 195,700 |
| Employment | 181,000 | 179,500 | 178,100 |
| Unemployment | 10,300 | 11,900 | 17,600 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 5.4 | 6.2 | 9.0 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 383 | 705 | 585 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 3,686 | 4,293 | 7,649 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 3,184 | 1,018 | 657 | 308 | NA |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1,355 | 494 | 184 | 137 | NA |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Mar. 1984 |
|---|---|
| Openings Received | 999 |

1/ At End of Period

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | MARCH 1984 | FEB. 1984 | MARCH 1983 |
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 157.5 | 156.5 | 156.4 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 117.7 | 116.9 | 116.7 |
| Construction | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.7 |
| Trans. & Public utilities | 6.6 | 6.7 | 7.2 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 36.3 | 36.4 | 35.1 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.6 |
| Services & mining | 38.8 | 38.2 | 37.5 |
| Government | 23.4 | 23.1 | 23.6 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | MARCH 1984 | FEB. 1984 | MARCH 1983 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 39.8 | 39.6 | 39.7 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 27.0 | 26.8 | 27.1 |
| Primary metals industries | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.6 |
| Cutlery & Hardware | | | |
| Screw mach. products | | | |
| Other fab. metal prod. | | | |
| Machinery, (exec. electrical) | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.7 |
| Other durable goods | 9.5 | 9.3 | 9.1 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 12.8 | 12.8 | 12.6 |
| Food & Kindred products | | | |
| Textile mill products | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| Printing & publishing | | | |
| Leather & leather products | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | MARCH 1984 | FEB. 1984 | MARCH 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $340.56 | $343.02 | $317.54 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.6 | 40.4 | 39.3 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 8.60 | $ 8.54 | $ 8.08 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

### FURTHER DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment in May 1984 fell to 3.8 percent of the labor force, the first time since October 1979 that it has been below the 4.0 percent level. The number of those out of work dropped by 2,000 to 7,300, the fewest since the 6,800 jobless in the same month of October 1979 and nearly one-half that of May 1983. The last time the month of May had a lower number of unemployed recorded was in 1970.

The Worcester LMA had the third lowest rate of the ten major LMAs in the state, being surpassed only by the Lowell SMSA's rate of 3.0 percent and the Boston SMSA's rate of 3.5 percent.

### SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT EXPANSION

The net addition of 900 jobs in the LMA was almost exclusively in nonmanufacturing industries and largely due to seasonal growth as trade added 600 positions and construction 300. Manufacturing employment continued its secular decline as fabricated metals lost 200 jobs, after an April increase, and nonelectrical machinery employment dropped to its lowest level since February 1978.

### MICRO-ELECTRONICS CENTER FOR CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

In May, after weeks of deliberation, the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation voted to locate a new $40 million micro-electronics center in Westboro, in the heartland of the high technology companies of Massachusetts. The center is not expected to become operational for at least 2 years. The center will be built on the grounds of the former Lyman School. The institution will be a joint venture of high tech companies and universities such as Harvard and M.I.T., who will teach state-of-the-art courses in the micro-electronics field to prepare students to work at all occupational levels in the related industries. The center will employ about 100 people when operative.

It is expected that the center will attract industry to towns surrounding Westboro, rather than to Westboro itself, because of the greater availability of industrial land. Towns surrounding Westboro are: Northboro, Marlboro, Southboro, Hopkinton, Upton, Grafton, and Shrewsbury.

### CHANGES IN INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION OF MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING

Pursuant to a decision by the U. S. Department of Labor we have made a change, starting with April data, in the industry classification of durable and nondurable goods manufacturing. Specifically, miscellaneous manufacturing (SIC 39) has been changed from a nondurable goods to a durable goods status.

According to the fourth quarter 1983 insured employment figures, there were about 600 workers employed in the Worcester LMA in SIC 39, with about 34 percent employed in the manufacture of "miscellaneous" items such as brooms and brushes, and about 31 percent in firms making toys and games.

At some future date we will adjust our employment series for prior years. During the interim data users can make this adjustment by subtracting SIC 39 from nondurable goods and adding its number to durable goods.

### ANNUAL WAGE SURVEY SHOWS UNEVEN PICTURE

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has released the results of its wage survey in the Worcester area for the year ending March 1984. This survey shows that the wages of office and clerical workers have risen by 4.9 percent over this period, better than the 4.1 percent rise in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers in the Northeast.

Workers in computer related occupations made the largest gains in the clerical group, with an advance of 7.3 percent. Systems analysts averaged $551.00 per week, computer programmers $437.50, and computer operators $309.00.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | May 1984 | April 1984 | May 1983 |
| LABOR FORCE | 189,400 | 191,200 | 192,300 |
| Employment | 182,100 | 181,900 | 177,900 |
| Unemployment | 7,300 | 9,300 | 14,400 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 3.8 | 4.9 | 7.5 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 437 | 623 | 675 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 2634 | 3294 | 5292 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISADVANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 3597 | 1299 | 676 | 390 | NA |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1155 | 495 | 129 | 131 | NA |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | May 1984 |
|---|---|
| Openings Received | 937 |

1/ At End of Period

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) May 1984 | April 1984 | May 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 158.5 | 157.6 | 158.1 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 118.8 | 117.7 | 118.1 |
| Construction | 3.7 | 3.4 | 4.2 |
| Trans. & Public utilities | 6.7 | 6.6 | 7.2 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 38.0 | 37.4 | 36.9 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.7 |
| Services & mining | 37.7 | 37.7 | 36.3 |
| Government | 23.1 | 23.1 | 23.8 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) May 1984 | April 1984 | May 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing - Total | 39.7 | 39.9 | 40.0 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 26.9 | 27.2 | 27.4 |
| Primary metals industries | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.7 | 7.9 | 7.8 |
| [illegible] | | | |
| [illegible] | | | |
| [illegible] | | | |
| Machinery, (exec. electrical) | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.7 |
| Other durable goods | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.2 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 12.8 | 12.7 | 12.6 |
| Food & Kindred products | -- | -- | -- |
| Textile mill products | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.4 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | May 1984 | April 1984 | May 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings<br>Average Weekly Hours<br>Average Hourly Earnings | I | N | A |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

### UNEMPLOYMENT UNCHANGED

Unlike the big drop in unemployment in July 1983 of 1.5 percentage points, the jobless rate in the Worcester LMA stayed at 4.7 percent in July. This LMA, the third largest in the state, seems to be in lock step with the Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke LMA, which also stayed at 4.7 percent for the second consecutive month. Both of these areas are running a little higher than the statewide average of 4.3 percent and a full percentage point higher than the 3.7 percent rates of the Boston SMSA and the Lowell LMA.

### SEASONAL DROP IN NONFARM JOBS

July saw a reduction of 5,000 jobs in the area, close to the decline during the same month last year. Much of this cutback is expected to be temporary, reflecting the absence from the ranks of the employed of the many on unpaid vacations, as well as unemployment due to seasonal inactivity in the transportation industry and government sector. The industry divisions adding jobs were construction (+100), and finance, insurance, and real estate (+200).

### PACE OF RECOVERY FROM THE 1982-83 RECESSION

A review of covered employment data from the fourth quarter of 1983, the latest period available, provides a base from which to gauge the degree of recovery from the 1982-83 recession of the various labor areas of the state. Comparisons will be made between the employment levels in the fourth quarter of 1981 and 1983. Of the ten major areas, the Worcester LMA is the only one whose employment had not reached its 1981 total by the fourth quarter of 1983. It was still 2,758 or 1.7 percent below the 1981 level. The severity of the recessions's effect on the LMA had been noticeable a year earlier when the number of jobs in the fourth quarter of 1982 in the area showed the largest numerical and proportional drop among the major labor areas with a loss of 9,000 jobs or 5.5 percent.

During this same two year span, the adjacent Milford LMA saw the largest percentage expansion of jobs in the state, up 29.4 percent, as employment soared from 10,424 to 13,492. Employment in the third LMA within Southern Worcester County, the Southbridge LMA, was down 1.0 percent from a level of 13,300 in 1981.

### COMMUTING PATTERNS IN THE SOUTHBRIDGE AREA

The 1980 federal census elicited data on commuting patterns of workers. Within the Southwest corner of Central Mass., 12,010 individuals worked in the towns of Brimfield, Holland, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Wales. Of the individuals working in these communities, 69 percent resided in these five communities. The Census Journey to Work data determined the place of residence of those holding jobs within the towns of Brimfield, Holland, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Wales. Of the 8,787 individuals in the town of Southbridge, 54.2 percent were from the town and 10.5 percent from Sturbridge. In addition, 9.4 percent commuted from 13 Connecticut towns, 6.9 percent from Dudley, 4.2 percent from Webster, 2.9 percent from Charlton, 1.6 percent from Holland, and 1.2 percent from Worcester. Of the 2,717 individuals working in Sturbridge, 32.2 percent were from the town, 28.2 percent commuted from Southbridge, 4.0 percent from Webster and 3.4 percent from Connecticut.

This 5 community area had a total population of 27,925, of which 11,815 were workers 16 years or older. Over 70 percent of the employed residents worked in the towns of Brimfield, Holland, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Wales. The predominant job center was Southbridge. Of the 7,026 Southbridge residents working, 79 percent worked within these 5 communities and 67.8 percent in their own home town. Furthermore, 10.9 percent of the Southbridge employed worked in Sturbridge and 6.2 percent commuted to Worcester City. Sixty-nine percent of Sturbridge residents worked in the 5 community area, with 33.6 percent employed in their own town. The percentages of residents from the other three towns employed in Stockbridge and Sturbridge were Brimfield, 23.4 percent; Holland, 44.6 percent; and Wales, 10.2 percent.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | July 1984 | June 1984 | July 1983 |
| LABOR FORCE | 190,300 | 191,500 | 194,400 |
| Employment | 181,300 | 182,500 | 180,900 |
| Unemployment | 9,000 | 9,000 | 13,500 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 4.7 | 4.7 | 6.9 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 566 | 409 | 603 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 3961 | 3228 | 5027 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 3432 | 1273 | 632 | 400 |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 1357 | 521 | 207 | 201 |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | July 1984 |
|---|---|
| Openings Received | 670 |

1/ At End of Period

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) July 1984 | June 1984 | July 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 153.2 | 158.2 | 152.9 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 114.7 | 118.3 | 113.9 |
| Construction | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.4 |
| Trans & Public utilities | 6.3 | 6.7 | 6.9 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 37.5 | 38.3 | 36.3 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 10.0 | 9.8 | 10.1 |
| Services & mining | 35.3 | 36.2 | 33.8 |
| Government | 21.6 | 22.8 | 21.8 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) July 1984 | June 1984 | July 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing - Total | 38.5 | 39.9 | 39.0 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 26.7 | 27.1 | 27.1 |
| Primary metals industries | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.5 | 7.8 | 7.7 |
| Cutlery & Hardware | | | |
| Screw mach. products | | | |
| Other fab. metal prod. | | | |
| Machinery, (exec. electrical) | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.4 |
| Other durable goods | 9.8 | 9.6 | 9.3 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 11.8 | 12.8 | 11.9 |
| Food & Kindred products | | | |
| Textile mill products | 2.6 | 3.1 | 2.6 |
| Printing & publishing | | | |
| Leather & leather products | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| Other nondurable goods | 8.1 | 8.5 | 8.0 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | July 1984 | June 1984 | July 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $341.52 | $339.66 | $329.28 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.3 | 39.2 | 39.2 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 8.69 | $ 8.67 | $ 8.40 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total emoloyment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment exoressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who oerformed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and reteted workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Auburn, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton Douglas, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, Worcester.

WORCESTER LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Worcester LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES TO EARLY SUMMER LEVEL

The September unemployment rate for the Worcester LMA dropped to the June and July level of 4.7 percent. Seasonal withdrawals from the labor force in conjunction with a decline of 100 in employment reduced the labor force to the smallest level since September 1977. The 8,800 jobless were the second fewest of the year.

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT RISES SEASONALLY

In September nonfarm work rolls rose seasonally by 2.5 percent to 157,200. Services, particularly educational services, made the greatest advances, up by 1,900 in toto, as schools and colleges reopened. Trade, especially the retail portion, added 1,300 workers for back-to-school and fall sales. Local government rolls shot up by 900 as schools reopened.

The nonfarm total was identical with the year ago number of jobs, although the industry mix has changed as manufacturing lost 900 job slots and nonmanufacturing gained 900. The industries which are most laggard in manufacturing are nonelectrical machinery (-700), fabricated metals (-200), textiles (-200), and leather (-200). Setting the pace in nonmanufacturing are trade and services, both 1,200 jobs ahead of September 1983 levels.

MEASURING THE AREA'S RECOVERY THROUGH EARLY 1984

A comparison of the covered employment figures for the first quarter of 1984 with those of the first quarter of 1983 shows the healthy recovery which has occured in most segments of private employment. Total covered employment now stands at 129,760 for a gain of 9,259 or 7.1 percent.

The strongest percentage advance was in the construction division, up 24.9 percent to 4,678 jobs. Manufacturing showed nearly across-the-board additions. The biggest percentage recovery came in textiles, up 22.9 percent or 608 positions. Other large numerical gains took place in fabricated metals (+643), nonelectrical machinery (+564), and rubber and plastics (+445). The leather industry, however, continued its long term slide, declining by 368.

In nonmanufacturing, wholesale and retail trade showed vigorous growth, adding 2,912 positions. Among the service industries, the biggest spurt was in personal services, which soared by 34.1 percent or 563 jobs. In addition, there were also large gains in business services (+547) and health services (+512).

Public work forces declined over this time span by 2.0 percent, attributable to declines in state payrolls.

INITIAL CLAIMS AND CONTINUED CLAIMS

Initial claims tied their second lowest level of 1984 in September with 409 filing, but was slightly higher than the year's low of 383 recorded in March. Continued weeks claimed, less partials, also were the second fewest of the year, bettered only by May's 2,766.

CLAIMS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Over the past year payments for total unemployment claims in the Worcester local office have declined by 23.3 percent, dropping from 1,974 to 1,515. Claims from residents of the city of Worcester were almost half (48.6 percent) of the latest total claims paid, although its population is only 42.5 percent of the LMA. The town of Webster also had severa percentage points more of the claims load than its share of the population. Eighteen of the towns in the area had a smaller percentage of claims than of population.

Webster had the largest portion of its population (0.9 percent) as claimants, followed by North Brookfield at 0.7 percent. East Brookfield and Paxton each had the smallest percentage, 0.1 percent. Worcester and five other communities had 0.6 percent of their population as claimants. Minority group members accounted for 4.6 percent of the current claimants, with 2.1 percent black, 2.1 percent Spanish surnamed, and 0.4 percent of other races.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

| LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | MONTH 2/ AND YEAR | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Sept. 1984 | Aug. 1984 | Sept. 1983 |
| LABOR FORCE | 188,700 | 189,800 | 195,100 |
| Employment | 179,900 | 180,000 | 180,900 |
| Unemployment | 8,800 | 9,800 | 14,200 |
| Unemployment Rate 3/ | 4.7 | 5.2 | 7.3 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | | | |
| Initial Claims | 409 | 461 | 429 |
| Continued Weeks Claimed | 2,783 | 3,776 | 3,377 |

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

| APPLICANTS 1/ | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN | MINORITY | DISAD-VANTAGED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Active Applicants | 2,918 | 1,097 | 551 | 322 | INA |
| New Applicants (This Month) | 986 | 436 | 112 | 119 | INA |

1/ Available During the Month

| JOB OPENINGS 1/ | Sept. 1984 |
|---|---|
| Openings Received | 959 |

1/ At End of Period

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) Sept. 1984 | Aug. 1984 | Sept. 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL | 157.2 | 153.3 | 157.2 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 118.3 | 114.4 | 117.4 |
| Construction | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| Trans. & Public utilities | 6.5 | 6.4 | 7.1 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 38.7 | 37.4 | 37.5 |
| Finance, ins. & real estate | 9.7 | 10.0 | 9.9 |
| Services & mining | 37.2 | 35.3 | 36.0 |
| Government | 22.1 | 21.2 | 22.5 |

| MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS | EMPLOYMENT (000's) Sept. 1984 | Aug. 1984 | Sept.1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing - Total | 38.9 | 38.9 | 39.8 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 26.8 | 26.8 | 27.2 |
| Primary metals industries | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| Fabricated metal products | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.7 |
| Cutlery & Hardware | -- | -- | -- |
| Screw mach. products | -- | -- | -- |
| Other fab. metal prod. | -- | -- | -- |
| Machinery, (exec. electrical) | 7.8 | 7.8 | 8.5 |
| Other durable goods | 9.8 | 9.8 | 9.4 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 12.1 | 12.1 | 12.6 |
| Food & Kindred products | -- | -- | -- |
| Textile mill products | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.9 |
| Printing & publishing | -- | -- | -- |
| Leather & leather products | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.4 |
| Other nondurble goods | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 |

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| ITEMS | Sept. 1984 | Aug. 1984 | Sept. 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Average Weekly Earnings | $349.67 | $343.88 | $338.92 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.6 | 39.3 | 40.3 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | $ 8.83 | $ 8.75 | $ 8.41 |

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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